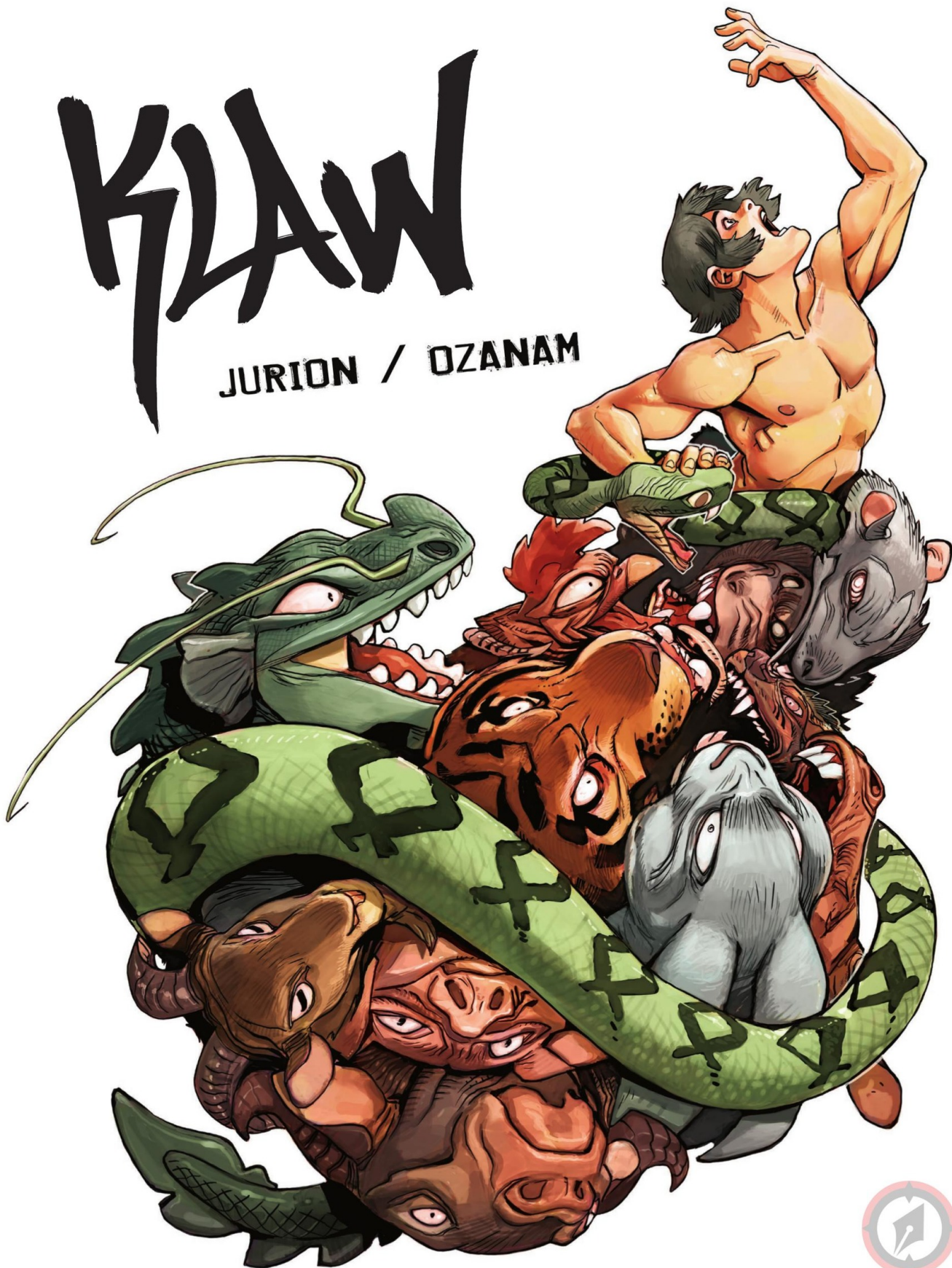




JURION / OZANAM

KLAW

JURION / OZANAM



KLAW

THE SECOND CYCLE

WRITTEN BY
OZANAM

ILLUSTRATED BY
JOËL JURION

COLORED BY
YOANN GUILLÉ

TRANSLATION BY JEREMY MELLOUL
EDITING, LOCALIZATION, AND LAYOUT BY MIKE KENNEDY

KLAW: THE SECOND CYCLE

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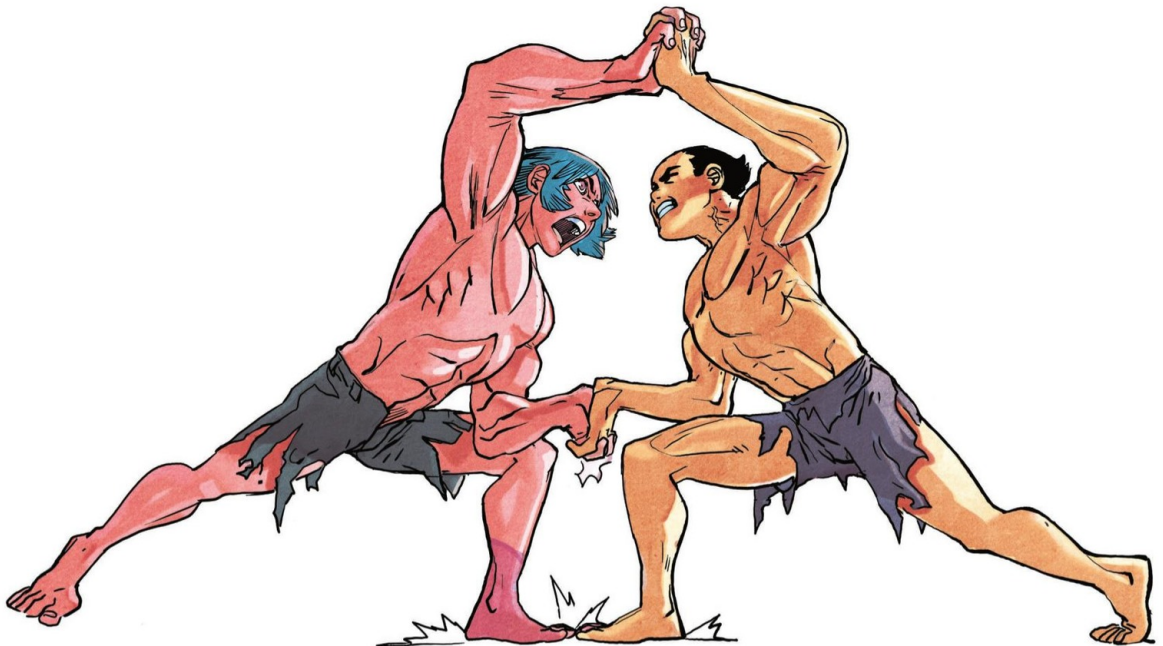
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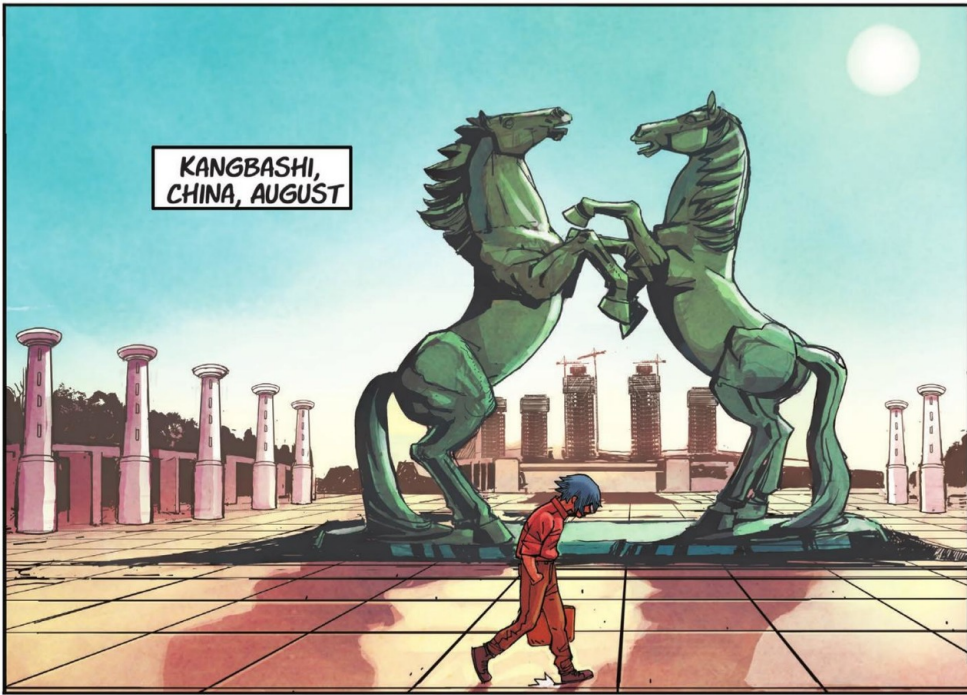




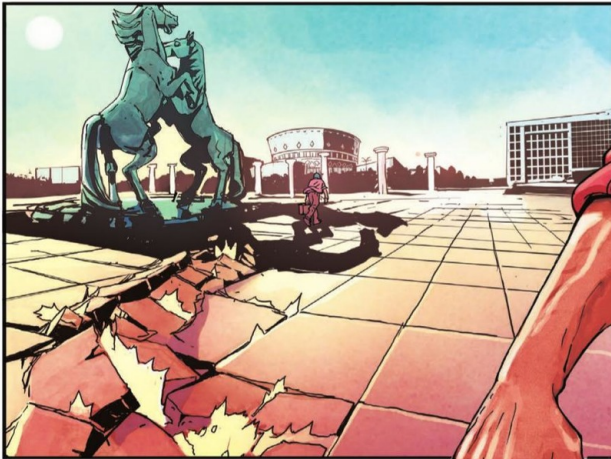
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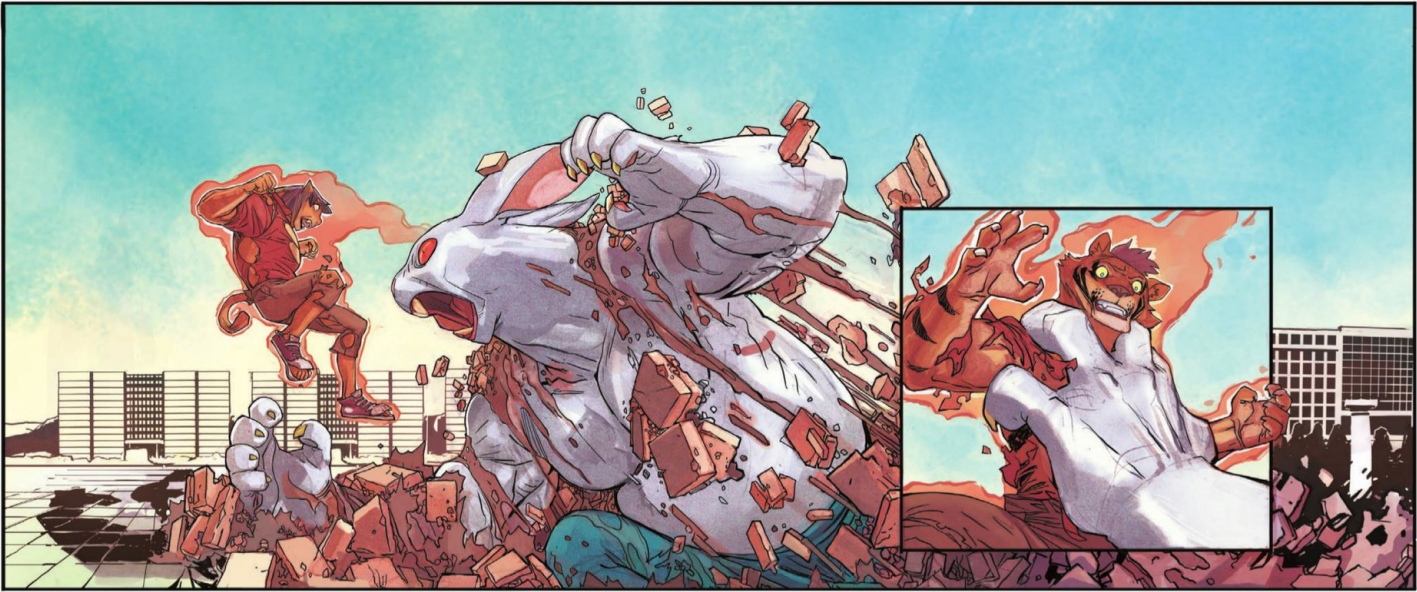
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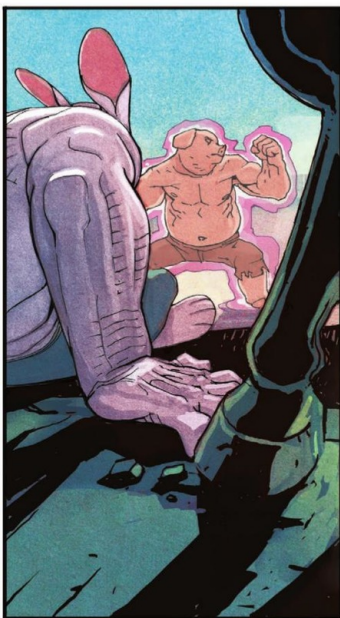


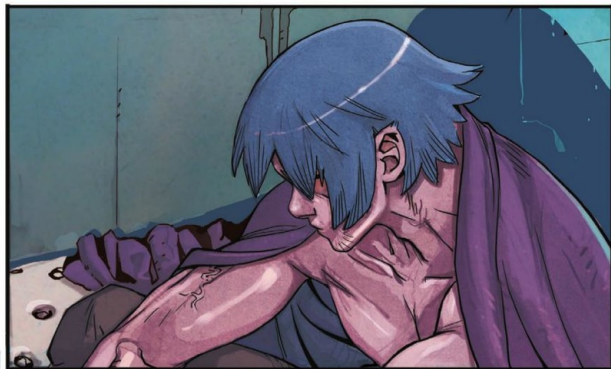


KANGBASHI,
CHINA, AUGUST

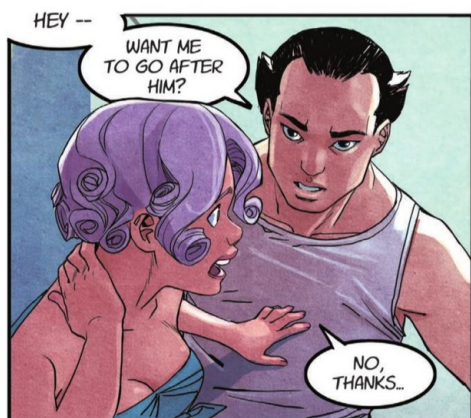


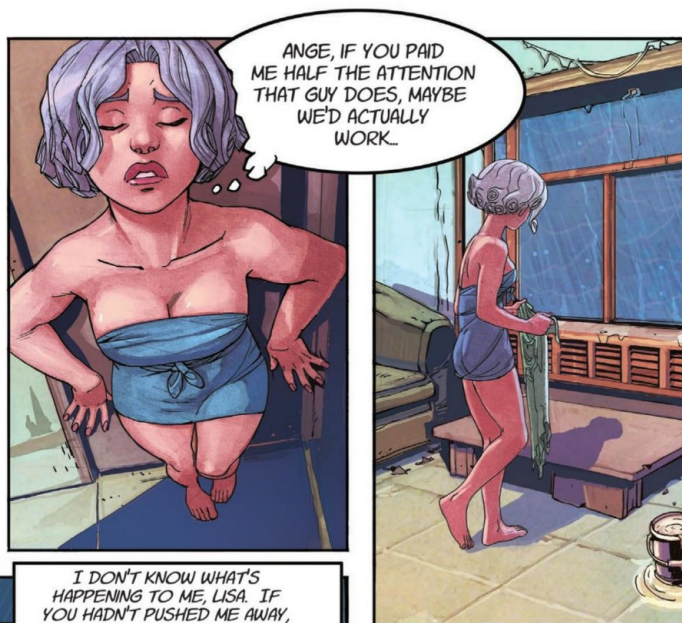










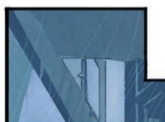


ANGE, IF YOU PAID ME HALF THE ATTENTION THAT GUY DOES, MAYBE WE'D ACTUALLY WORK...



THE RAIN'S GETTING WORSE. I HOPE YOU FIND SHELTER.

YOU'RE SICK ENOUGH ALREADY!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME, LISA. IF YOU HADN'T PUSHED ME AWAY, I WOULD HAVE STOLEN YOUR POWER.

IT HURTS SO MUCH... ISN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY TO EASE THE PAIN?



I HAVE TO FIND THE RABBIT. IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO GET SORTED OUT, SO THAT LISA IS SAFE AGAIN...



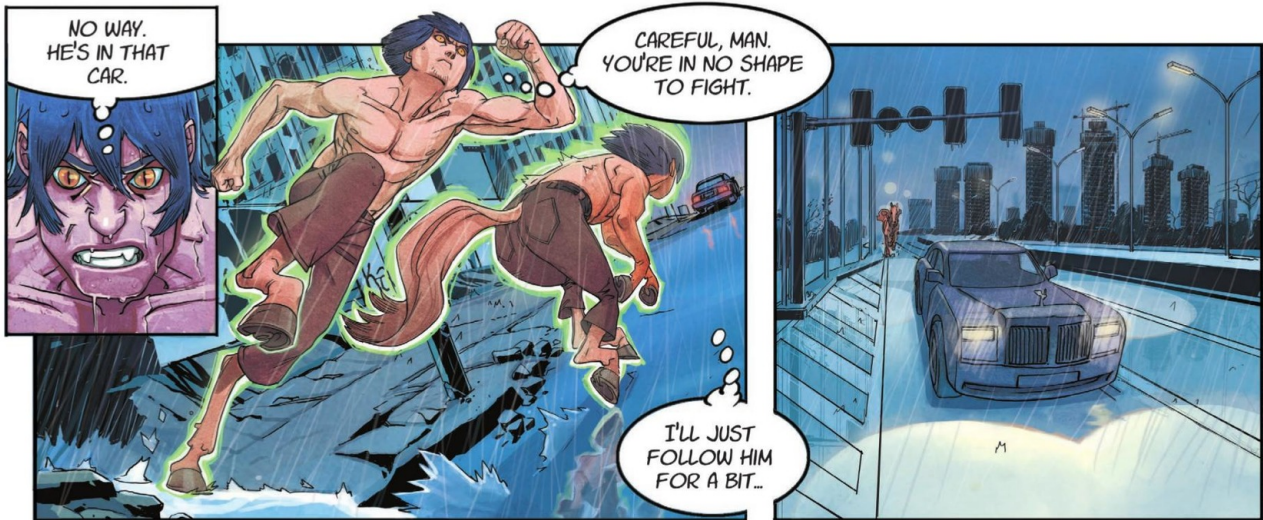
BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FIND HIM SINCE WE GOT HERE.

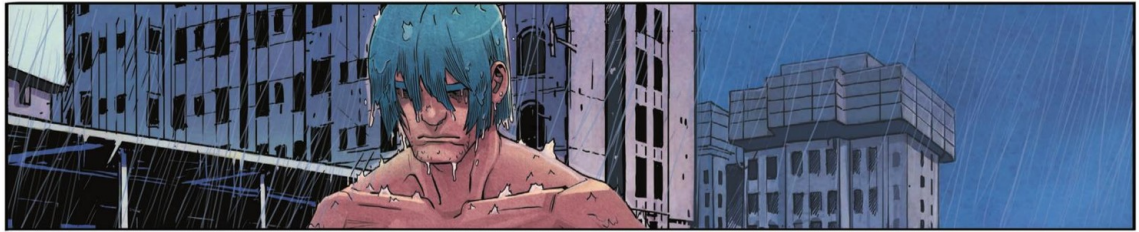


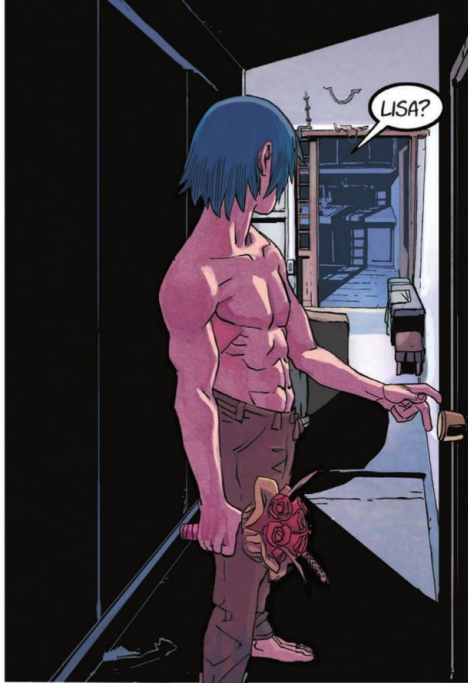
HE'S HERE, I CAN FEEL IT. BUT HE GETS AWAY EVERY TIME...



IT WOULD TAKE A MIRACLE...
...?!







LISA?



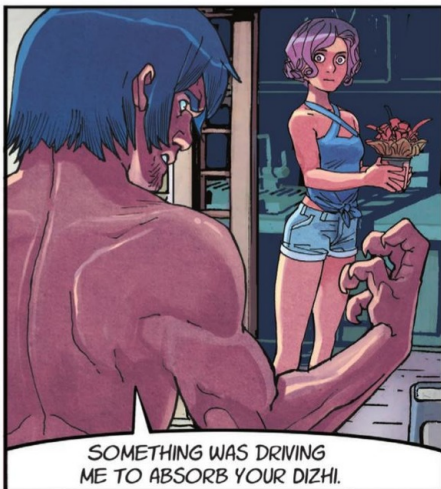
I... HERE.



THANKS.



ABOUT EARLIER...
I'M SORRY. I DON'T
KNOW WHAT CAME
OVER ME.

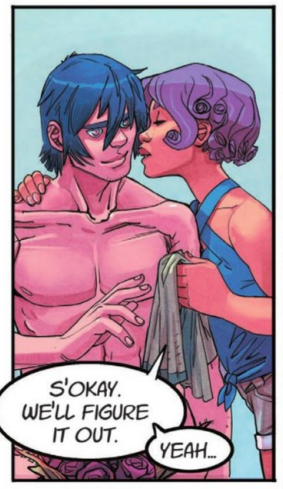


SOMETHING WAS DRIVING
ME TO ABSORB YOUR DIZHI.

...BUT UNTIL THEN, WE SHOULD
SLEEP IN SEPARATE ROOMS.



I... I DON'T
KNOW WHY THIS IS
HAPPENING. HORATIO
NEVER TOLD ME
ABOUT THIS.



S'OKAY.
WE'LL FIGURE
IT OUT.

YEAH...



?

AND YOU
SHOULD BARRICADE
YOUR DOOR AT NIGHT.
NO RISKS.

...OKAY.





"...NOT MY GRANDFATHER." I KNOW,
BUT I'M STILL MALANA'S HUSBAND, WHICH MAKES
ME THE MANAGER.





PALANI,
PLEASE...

I KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE GONNA SAY,
MALANA. AND I AGREE.

BUT A LITTLE EXTRA CASH
WOULDN'T HAVE HURT.



CAREFUL,
VICTORIA!
YOU'RE
NEXT!

HUH?



AH!

VICKY! THE
TRASH ISN'T GOING
TO TAKE ITSELF
OUT!



MAN, HE'S
GOING CRAZY
TONIGHT!

HE'S THE
ONLY GUY I KNOW
WHO GETS MORE GRUMPY
WHEN HE'S IN LOVE...



OH? YOU KNOW
SOMETHING ABOUT
BEING IN LOVE?

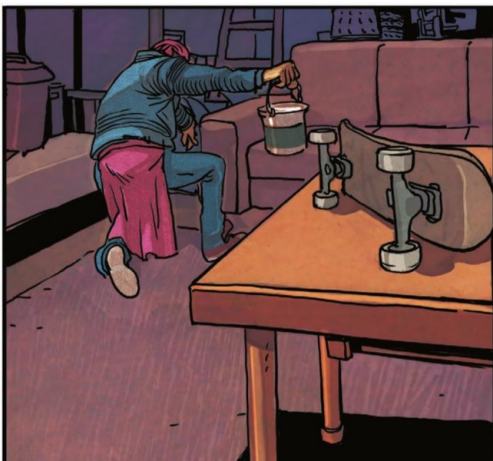
I, UH...

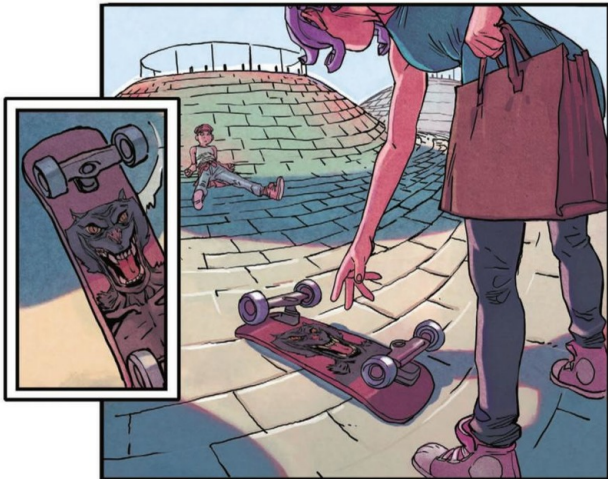
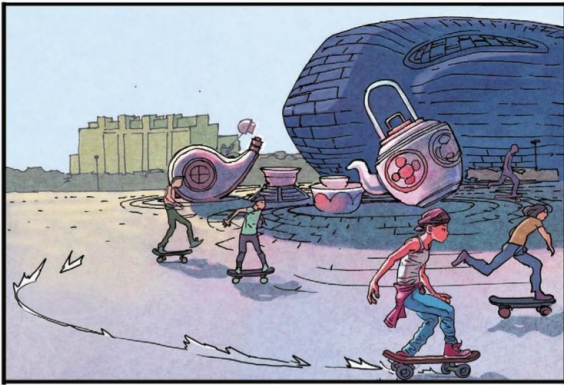


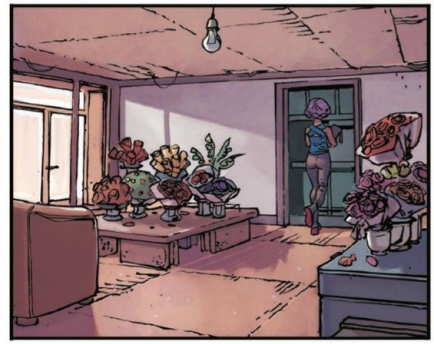
IF YOU'RE GOING
TO GET ON MY CASE, TOO, THEN
THIS IS REALLY GOING TO GET
ANNOYING!



BRRR...
NOW I SEE WHY
HE WANTED ME TO
TAKE OUT THE
TRASH!





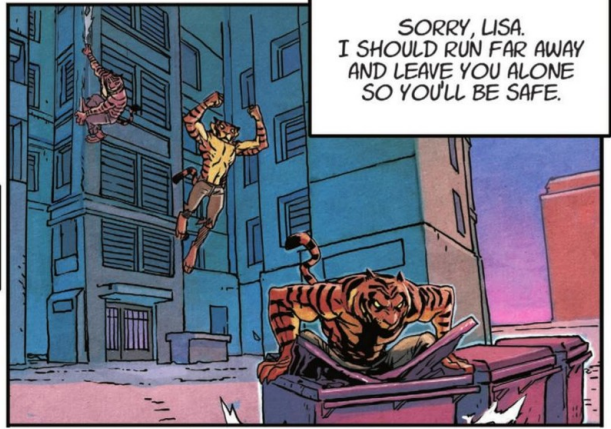




THIS PROBLEM
WON'T SOLVE
ITSELF.



IF I STAY
HERE, IT'LL
JUST GET
WORSE.



SORRY, LISA.
I SHOULD RUN FAR AWAY
AND LEAVE YOU ALONE
SO YOU'LL BE SAFE.



I HAVE TO GET BACK
TO MY SENSES AND
FOCUS ON THAT
DAMN RABBIT.



THAT LAST CAR
LOOKED LIKE IT
WOULD HAVE
COME FROM THE
RICH PART OF
TOWN.

AND BEING A
DIZHI, HE'S
PROBABLY
PART OF THE
MOB, TOO.



I SHOULD PATROL
THE CASINO DISTRICT.
THAT'S MY BEST
CHANCE TO FIND
HIM.



YEAH... I
THINK I CAN
SMELL HIM...



HELP!

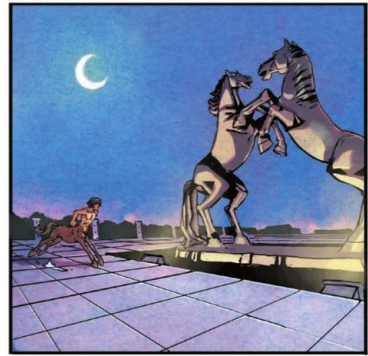
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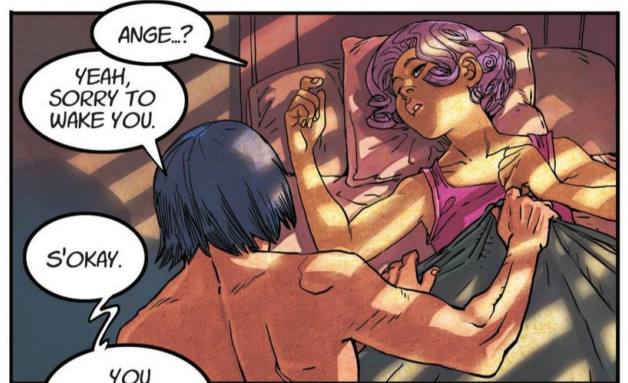


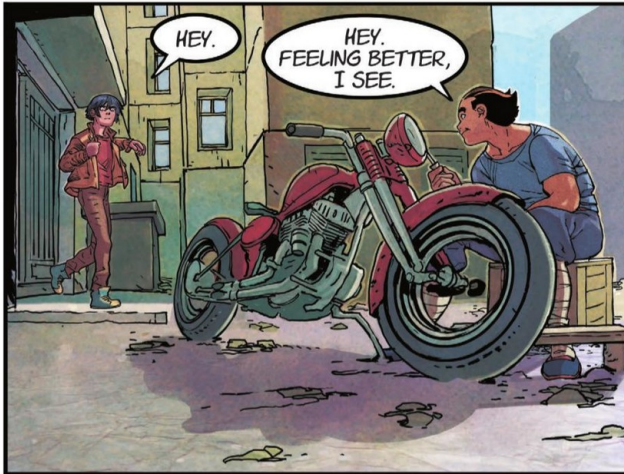
NO, CONCENTRATE
ON THE RABBIT!











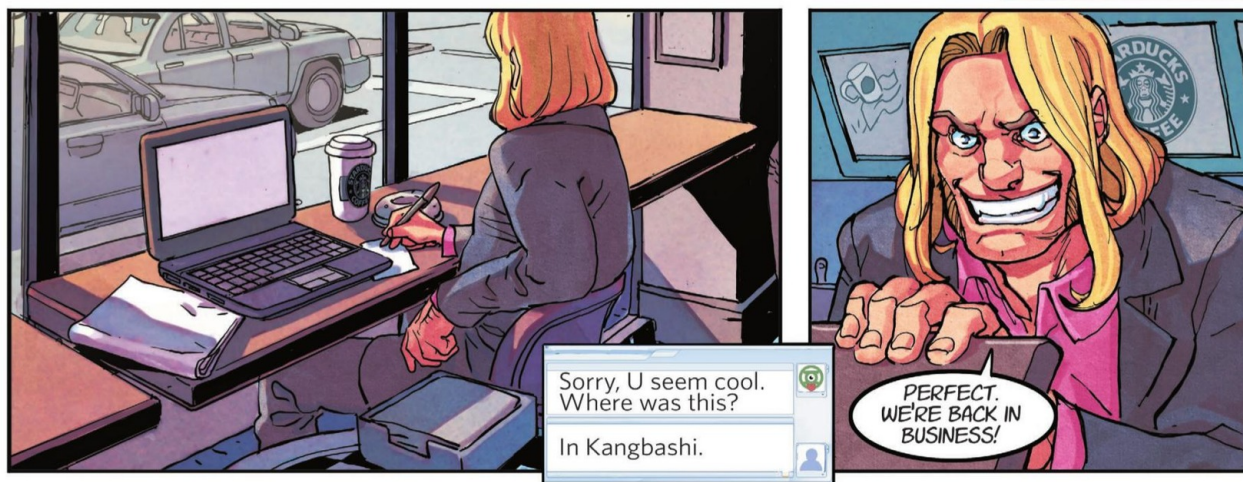
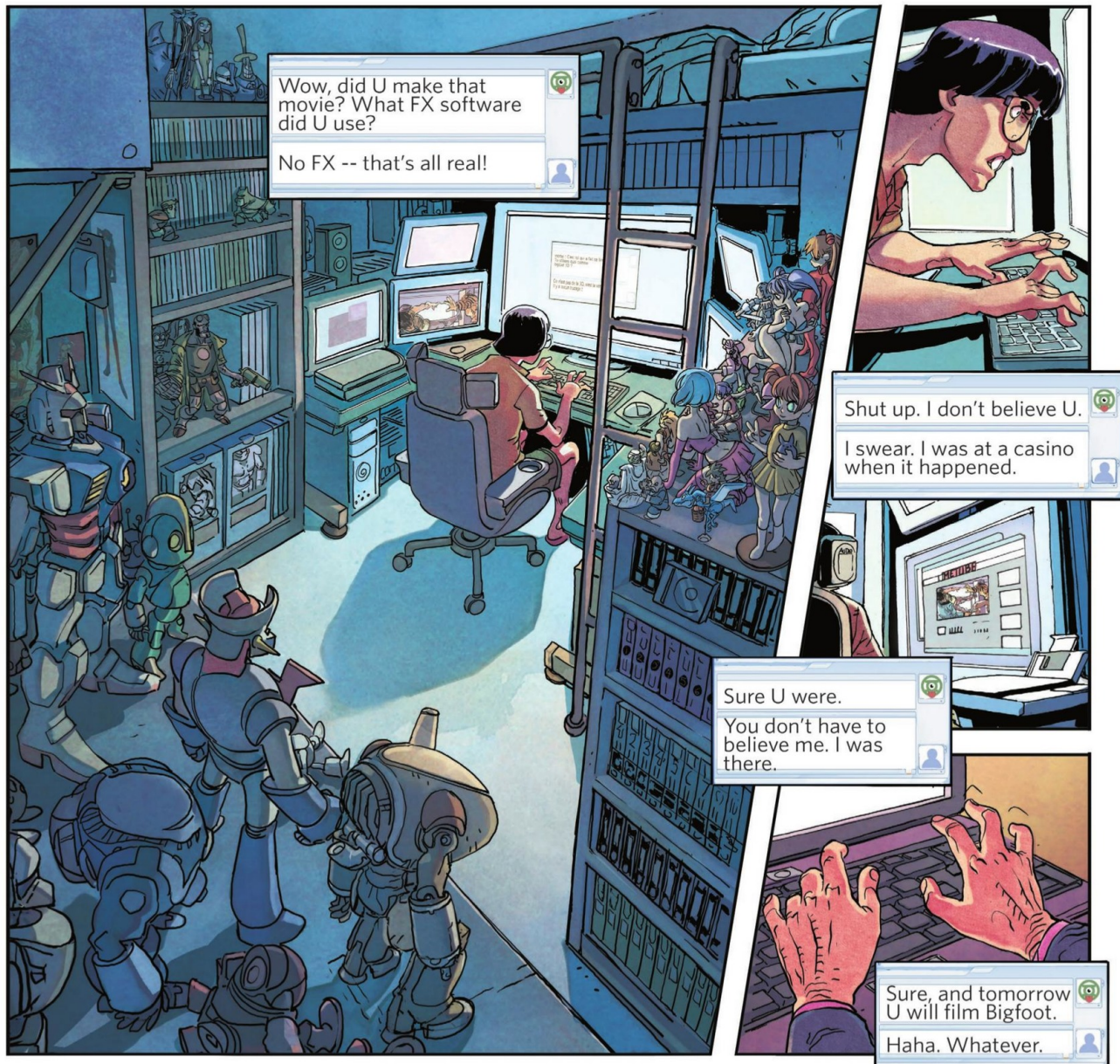
YEAH. I... I WANTED TO THANK YOU FOR WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME AND LISA.

NO SWEAT. SOME OF US STILL REMEMBER HOW TO BE HELPFUL...



ACTUALLY, I WAS THINKING, NOW THAT I'M FEELING BETTER...





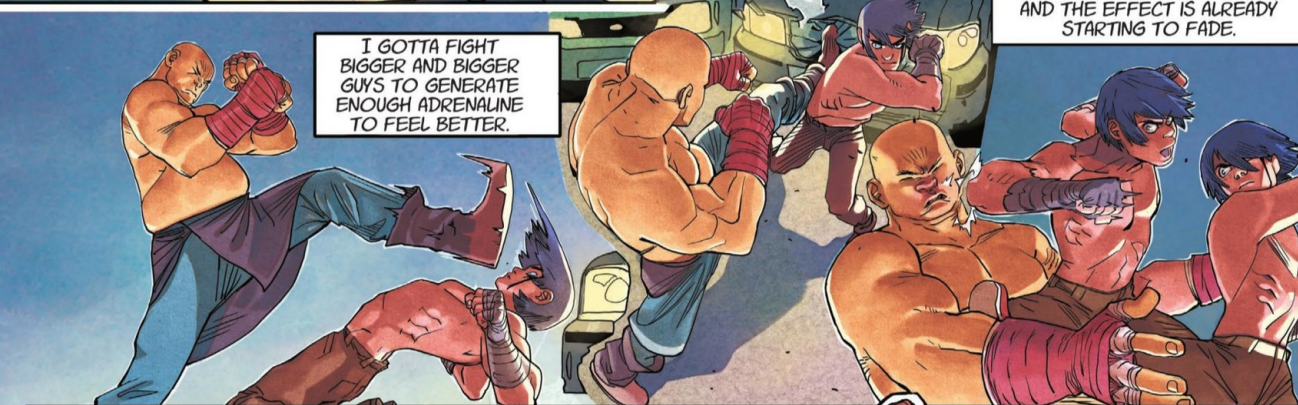


I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING TO LISA.

I COULDN'T TELL HER THAT I NEEDED TO FIGHT TO FEEL BETTER.

BUT I KNOW THIS IS JUST A TEMPORARY FIX.

IT'S ONLY BEEN A FEW DAYS, AND THE EFFECT IS ALREADY STARTING TO FADE.



I GOTTA FIGHT BIGGER AND BIGGER GUYS TO GENERATE ENOUGH ADRENALINE TO FEEL BETTER.



AFTER ONLY A FEW DAYS, I'M WORRIED FOR LISA AGAIN.

I GOTTA FIND THIS DAMN RABBIT BEFORE THE URGES START UP AGAIN.



ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, I'VE LEARNED HOW TO USE SOME OF THE DIZHI POWER TO FIGHT WITHOUT SHIFTING...





HEY, ANGE.



WH -- HOW'D YOU DO THAT?

DO WHAT?

YOUR BRUISES... THEY'RE GONE!



LOOK, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT. I APPRECIATE ALL OF YOUR HELP, BUT SOME QUESTIONS SHOULD BE LEFT ALONE.



SORRY, YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE A FRIEND.

THANKS, BUT...



WHAT'S WRONG?

NOTHING... I FORGOT I HAD SOMETHING TO DO.



GOTTA GO! LET'S FINISH THIS CHAT LATER!

NO SWEAT!



HERE WE GO...



I COULD KEEP UP IF I SHIFT INTO THE HORSE...



...BUT I THINK I'VE DONE ENOUGH TO GET HIS ATTENTION.

WELL, AT LEAST I KNOW WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE NOW...

ARE YOU SURE THAT'S HIM?

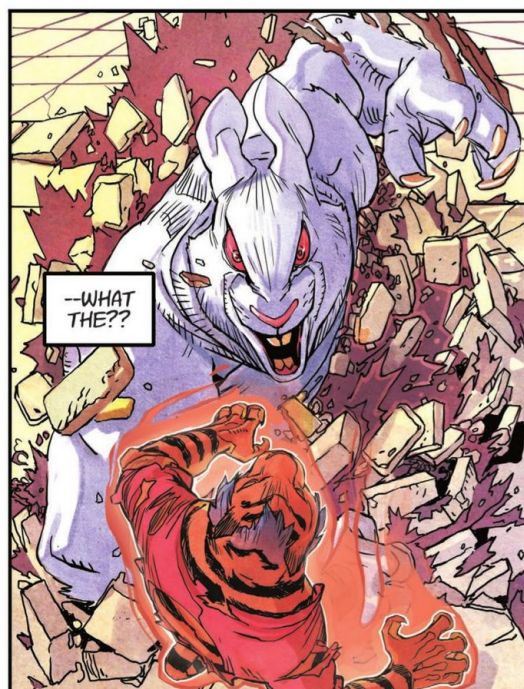
I'M NEVER WRONG...



HMM, IS IT POSSIBLE THEO'S THE RABBIT? AND I'VE BEEN TOO SICK TO NOTICE?

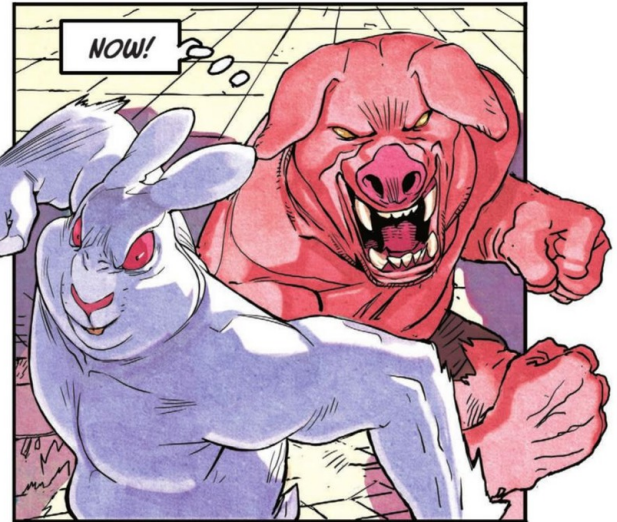
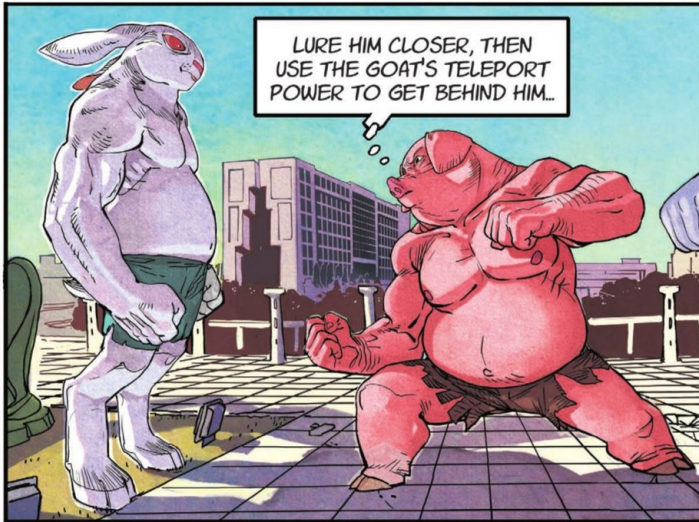
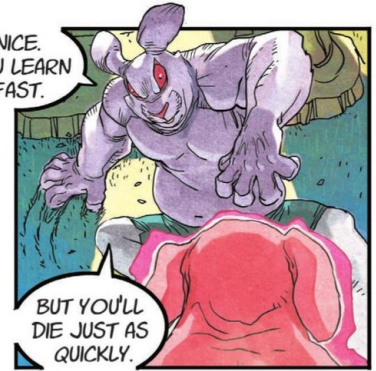


HE HAS ACTED WEIRD SINCE WE MET HIM, AND HE WAS THERE WITH THAT BIG GUY WHO STUNK LIKE DIZHI...



--WHAT THE??



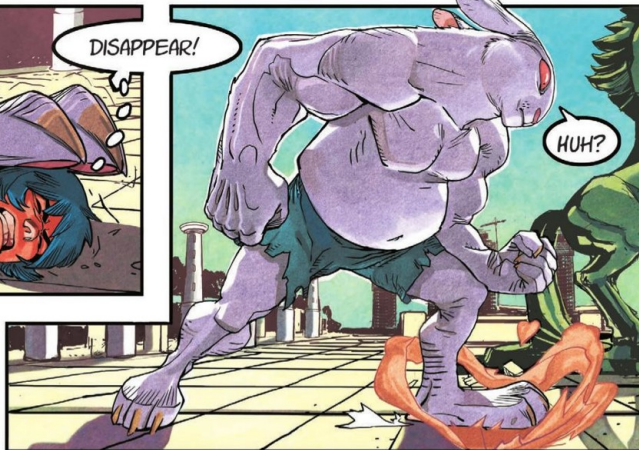




DISAPPEAR!



CLEAR MY HEAD...



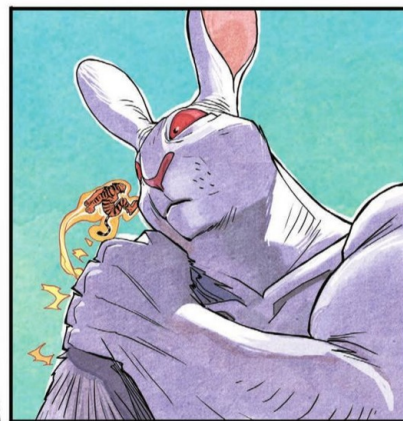
HUH?



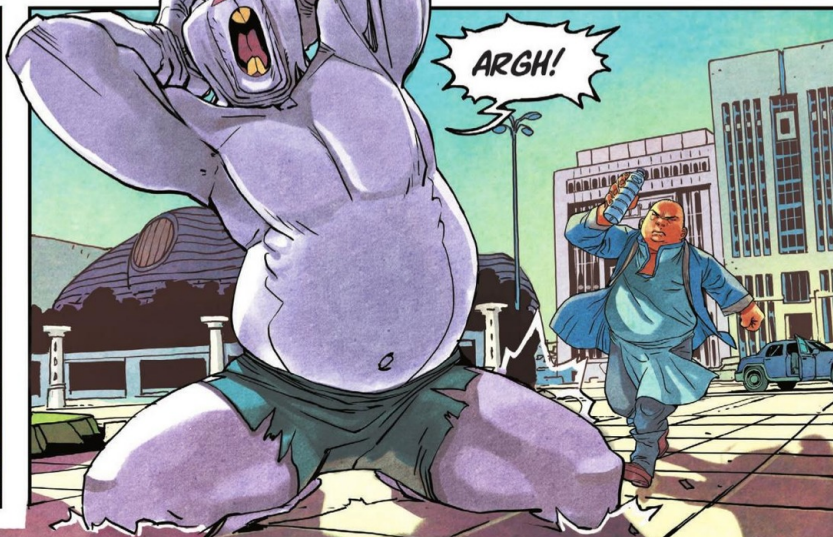
WHERE'D YOU GO?!



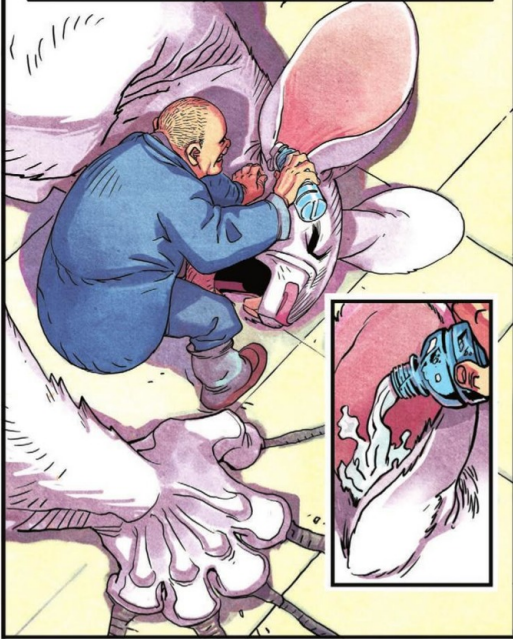
THERE!



THANKS, FATSO!
I NEVER WOULD
HAVE THOUGHT
OF CHANGING
SIZES!



ARGH!





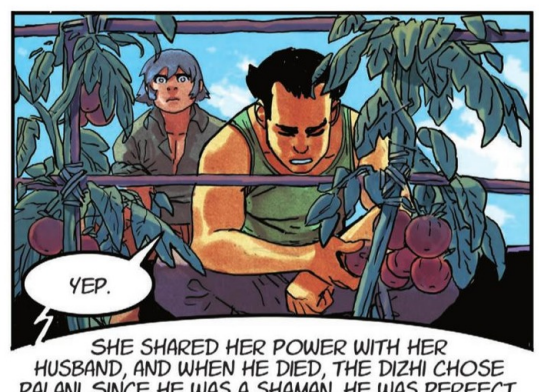
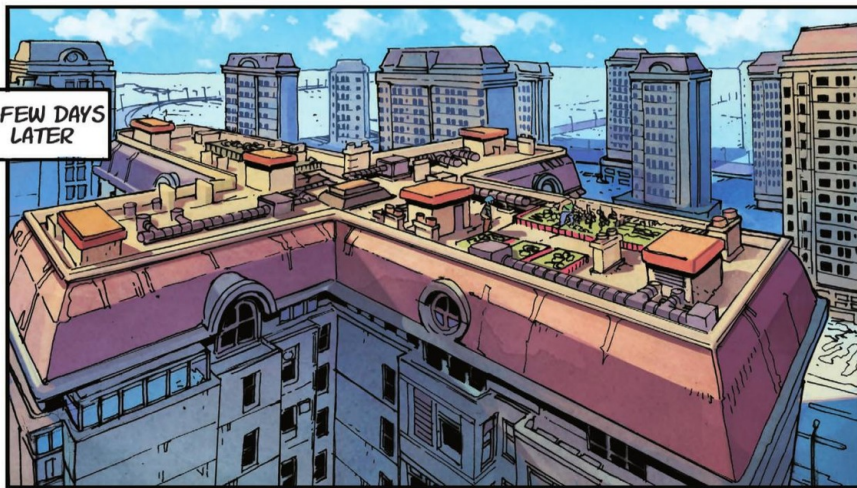








A FEW DAYS LATER



EACH DAY, HE COULD SEE A FEW MOMENTS INTO THE FUTURE. NOT MUCH USE EXCEPT TO ANNOY PEOPLE.



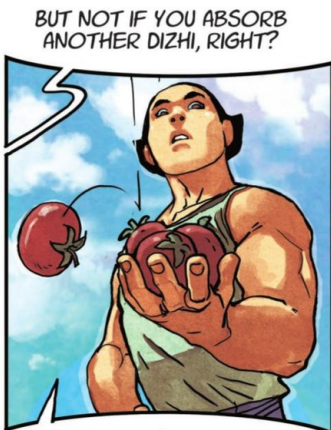
IS THIS GOING TO BE A LONG STORY?



RIGHT, SORRY. THE SNAKE DIZHI IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT CAN BE SHARED WITH MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE.



THAT'S WHY YOU COULDN'T SMELL US -- WE'RE THE ONLY CLAN THAT CAN HIDE OUR "AURA" FROM OTHERS.



BUT NOT IF YOU ABSORB ANOTHER DIZHI, RIGHT?

YEP. THAT'S WHY WE LET YOU ABSORB THE RABBIT.



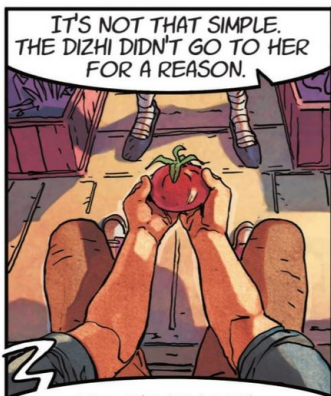
EVEN IF THAT IS A LITTLE DANGEROUS IN YOUR STATE.

MY STATE?

A DIZHI IS MEANT TO BE SHARED, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE A PARTNER. THAT'S WHY THEY ARE GNAWING AT YOU. AND HAVING SO MANY MAKES IT WORSE.



ARE YOU SAYING I SHOULD SHARE IT WITH LISA?



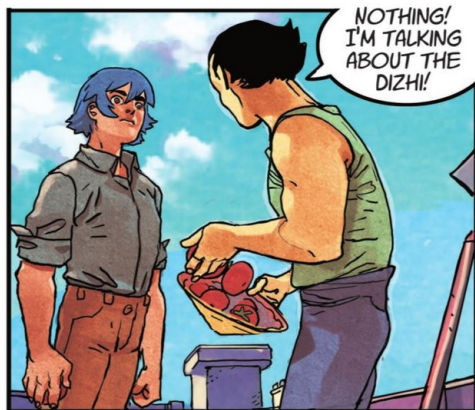
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. THE DIZHI DIDN'T GO TO HER FOR A REASON.

BUT THE DRAGON CHOSE HER...



THIS MIGHT BE ABOUT SHARING WITH YOU.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?



NOTHING! I'M TALKING ABOUT THE DIZHI!



OKAY THEN -- WHY DID THE DRAGON CHOSE LISA? WHY HER?

PROBABLY BECAUSE YOU KNEW HER AND THE DIZHI SAW HER SOUL... IT WORKS IN CONCENTRIC CIRCLES...



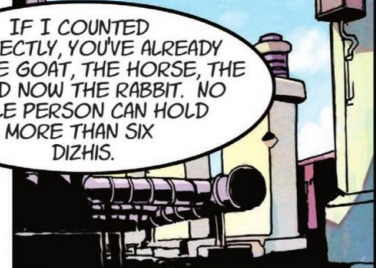
A DIZHI
WILL ALWAYS GO
TOWARD THE MOST
CONVENIENT HOST,
AND ALWAYS TO
THE PUREST SOUL.

AND YOU'RE
REACHING YOUR
TOTEM LIMIT.

MY
WHAT?



IF I COUNTED
CORRECTLY, YOU'VE ALREADY
GOT THE GOAT, THE HORSE, THE
PIG, AND NOW THE RABBIT. NO
SINGLE PERSON CAN HOLD
MORE THAN SIX
DIZHIS.



AND HONESTLY, I DON'T
KNOW IF YOU'RE READY TO HOLD
THAT MUCH POWER AT ONCE
ANYWAY.

WHY'S
THAT?



YOU KNOW
"LORD OF THE
RINGS"? DID YOU SEE
WHAT THE RING DID
TO GOLLUM?



YOW.

AND I DON'T NEED TO
TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENS
IF YOU DON'T SHARE
YOUR POWER...



THE URGE.



WHEN I WAS
IN CHICAGO, THERE WAS A
CRAZY GUY WHO SEEMED TO
KNOW A LOT ABOUT DIZHI. HE
SAID THE RABBIT ABSORBED
THE DOG.

WHAT
ABOUT
IT?

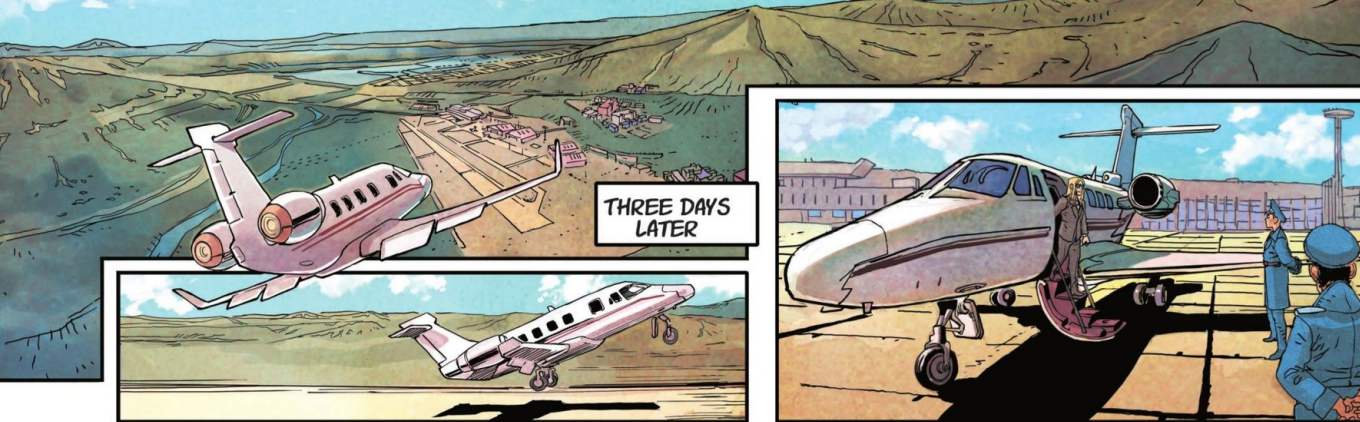


WHAT
ABOUT THE
DOG?

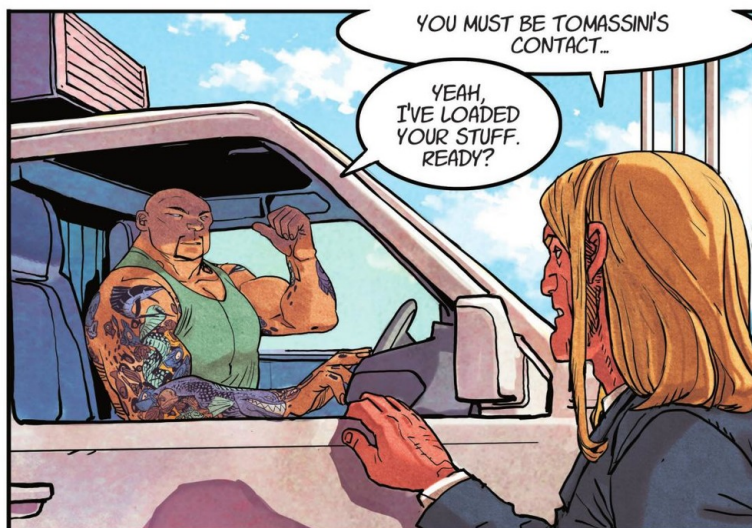
WAIT --
YOU CAN LOSE
YOUR DIZHI?

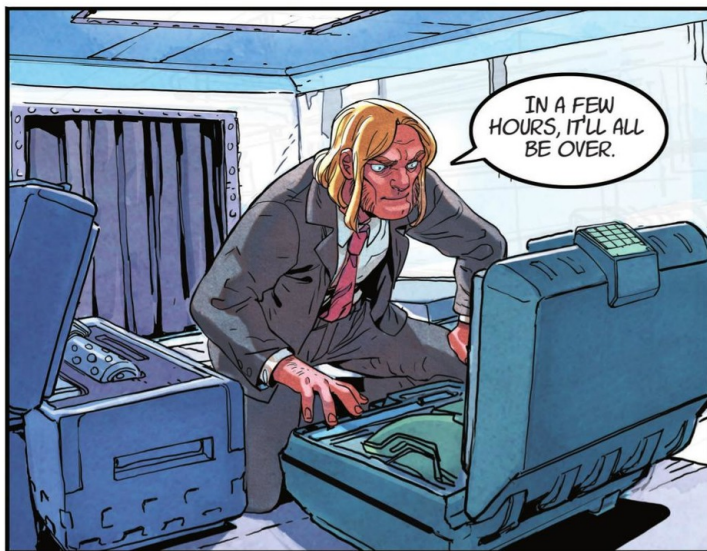
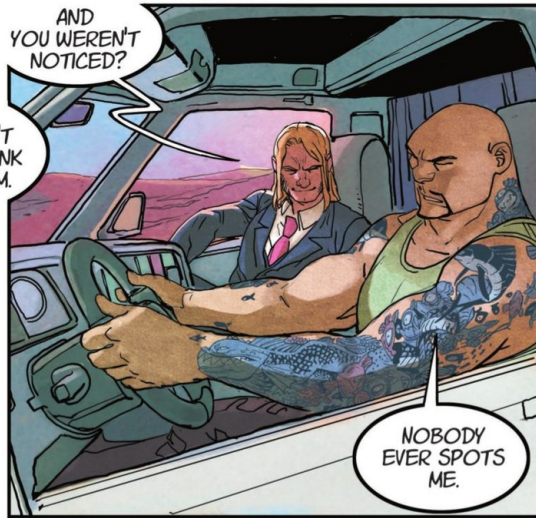
ONLY THE
ONES YOU ABSORB.
THE TIGER WILL BE
WITH YOU UNTIL
YOU DIE.

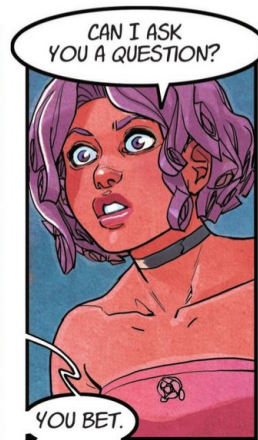




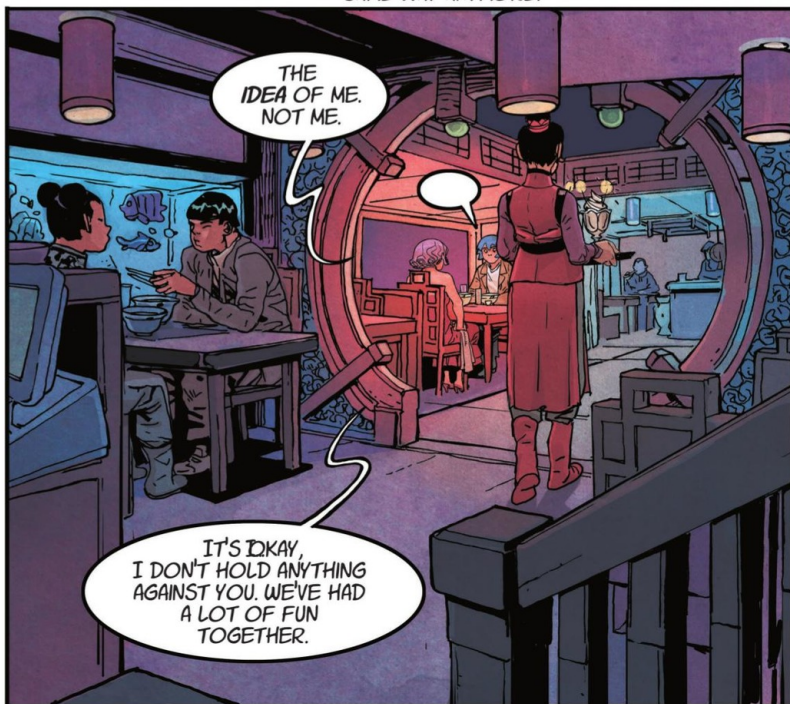
ARE YOU HERE ON BUSINESS
OR PLEASURE?

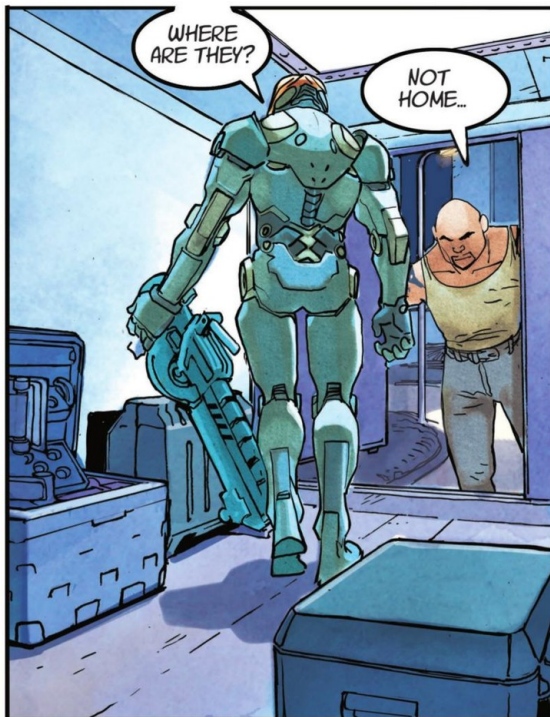






WE'VE CHANGED
SO MUCH SINCE HIGH SCHOOL,
I DUNNO IF YOU FEEL THE
SAME WAY ANYMORE.







WHAT DO YOU MEAN "IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK?"

JUST FORGET IT, PLEASE.



I CAN'T.



STOP!

YOU'RE SO LOST IN YOURSELF, YOU DON'T SEE HOW HARD IT'S BEEN FOR ME TO DEAL WITH YOUR PROBLEMS!

I... I NEED SPACE. I NEED TO FIGURE THIS OUT.

I JUST WANT SOME PEACE.

I'LL BE BACK. WE CAN TALK LATER.



I...



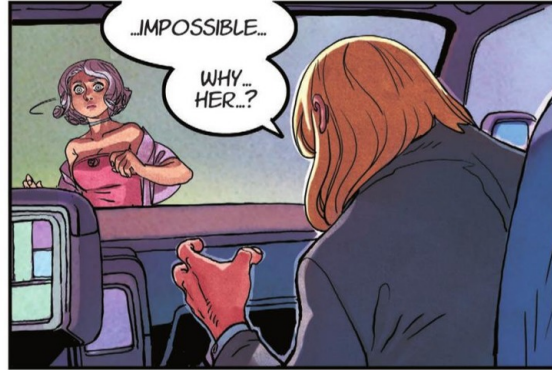
YOU'RE JOKING, RIGHT?

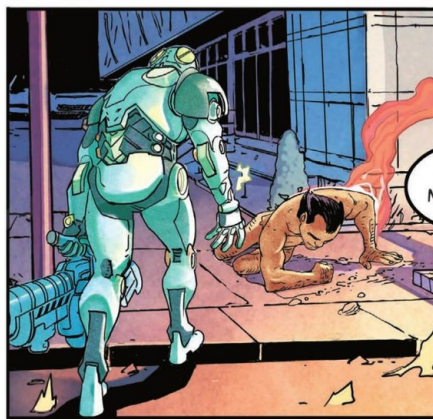
ANYTHING BUGS ME, I'LL BURN IT, OKAY?

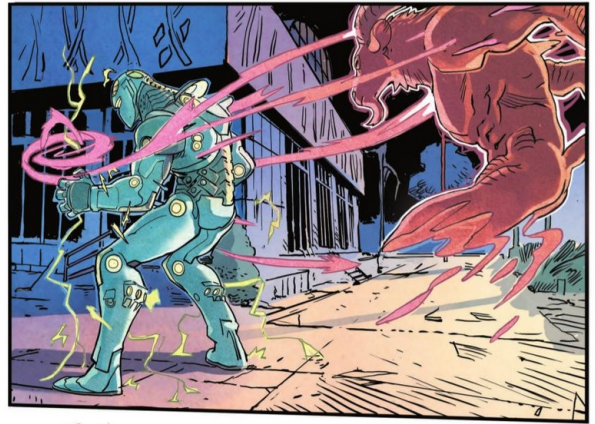
HAHA! OKAY!

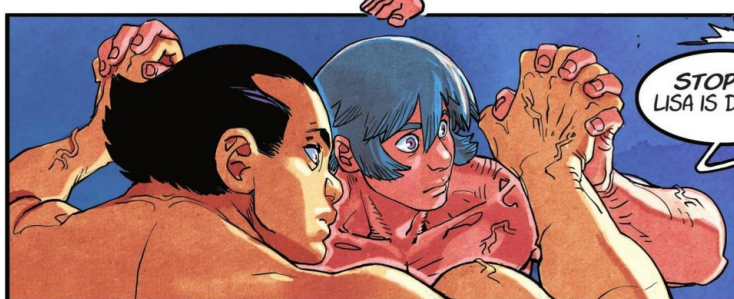
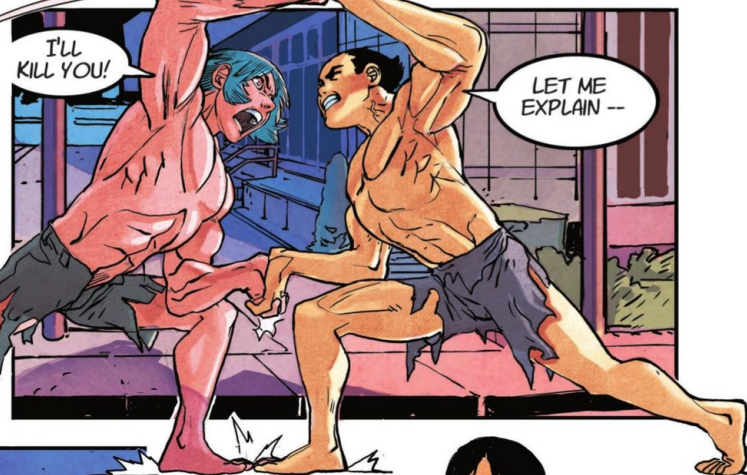
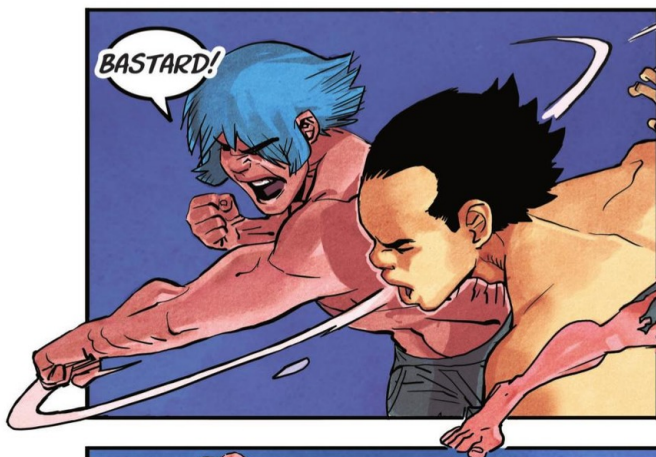


THE COW...



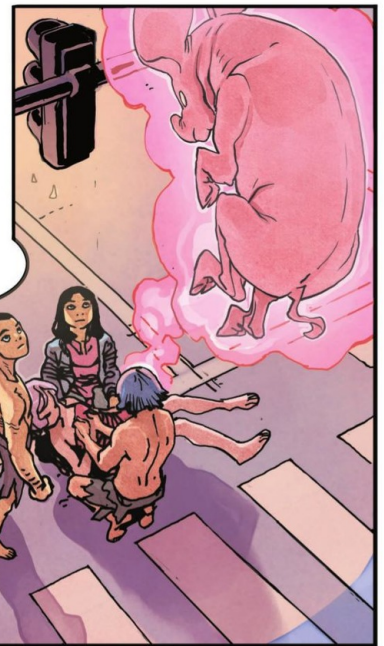








JUST TRY.



I CAN LEAD HIM AWAY FROM YOU IF I TAKE OFF ON MY OWN. I'LL GO BEFORE SHE WAKES UP. IT'LL BE EASIER THAT WAY.





WHEN I WAS A KID, I SAW A MOVIE WHERE CLARK KENT RACED A TRAIN. THAT'S HOW HE LEARNED HE HAD SUPER POWERS.



FROM THAT MOMENT ON, HE DECIDED TO DO GOOD, AND HE WOULD NEVER HESITATE.

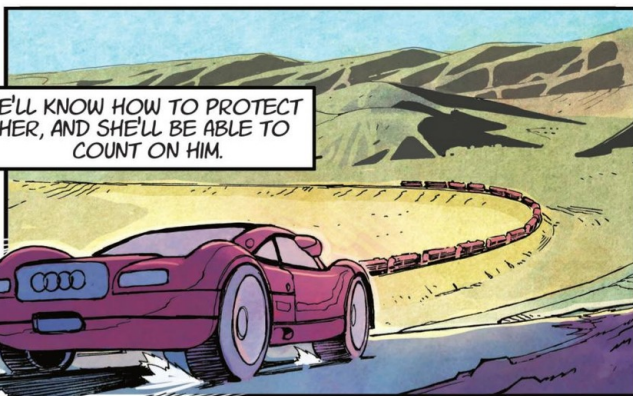


THAT'S WHY HE NEVER ALLOWED HIMSELF TO FALL IN LOVE. THAT WOULD ONLY PUT THE OTHER PERSON IN DANGER.



I KNEW THAT ALL ALONG, BUT I'M ONLY NOW REALIZING IT.

THE DIZHI CHOSE WISELY WHEN LISA HAD TO SHARE HER TOTEM. THE DRAGON CHOSE THEODORE WITHOUT HESITATION.

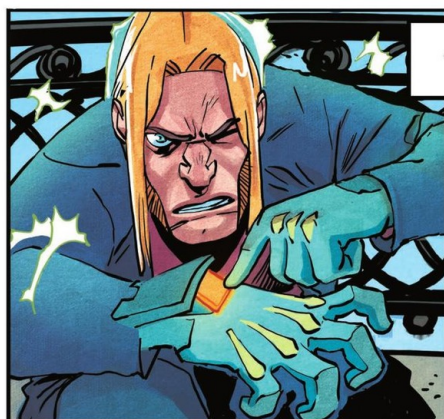
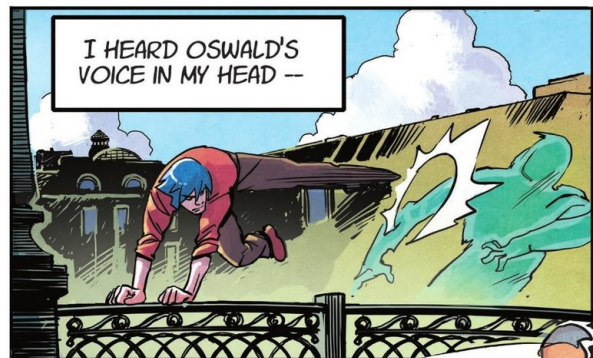


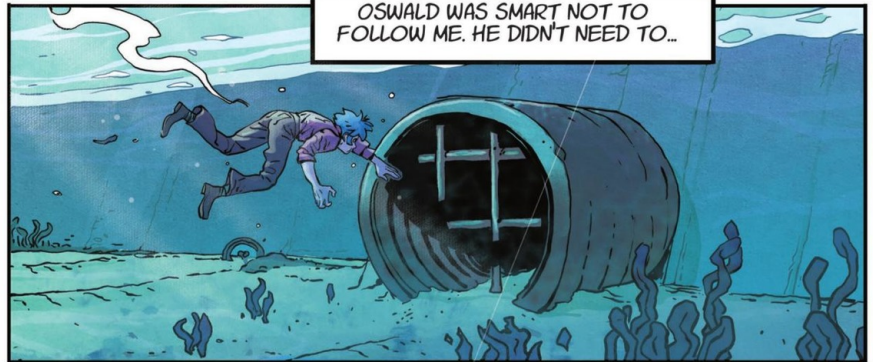
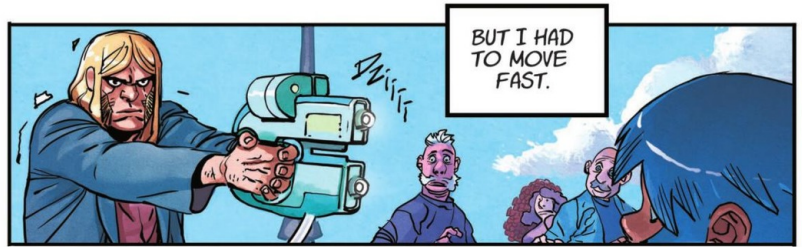
HE'LL KNOW HOW TO PROTECT HER, AND SHE'LL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON HIM.



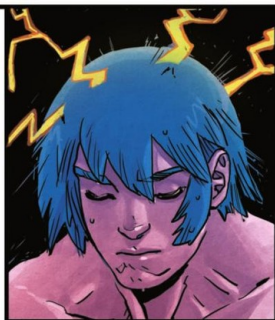
ME? I'M GOING TO FIGURE OUT WHO I WANT TO BE...

INTERLUDE





IT'S ALWAYS IN MY MOST DESPERATE HOURS THAT I DISCOVER MORE ABOUT MY POWERS.



THE BRIEF PSYCHIC CONTACT I HAD WITH OSWALD GAVE ME A GLIMPSE AT HIS MOST RECENT MEMORIES...



IT'S LIKE I HACKED INTO HIS BRAIN.



...INCLUDING HIS ADDRESS IN MOSCOW.



AND IT GAVE ME AN IDEA.



NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE, THE BARS NEAR THE TRACKS ARE ALWAYS WHERE YOU CAN FIND THE ACTION.



I'M LOOKING TO BUY SOME WEAPONS...

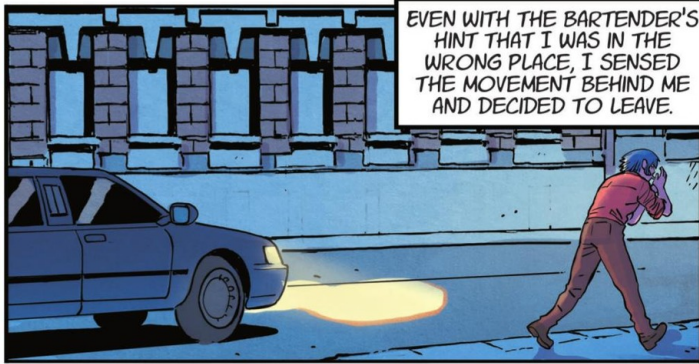
HAH, SURE.

I'M THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE.



GOOD. I NEED GUNS. GRENADES. HARD EXPLOSIVES...

YOU'D BE BETTER OFF ORDERING VODKA.



EVEN WITH THE BARTENDER'S HINT THAT I WAS IN THE WRONG PLACE, I SENSED THE MOVEMENT BEHIND ME AND DECIDED TO LEAVE.



THE SMILING FACE THAT PULLED UP BESIDE ME SAID I HAD BEEN IN THE RIGHT PLACE.

GET IN.

THE TWO GUYS TRIED TO SPOOK ME, TO SEE IF I HAD ANY GUTS.



AFTER A WHILE, THEY SAID THEY HAD WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.



BUT I COULD TELL THEY HAD OTHER IDEAS.

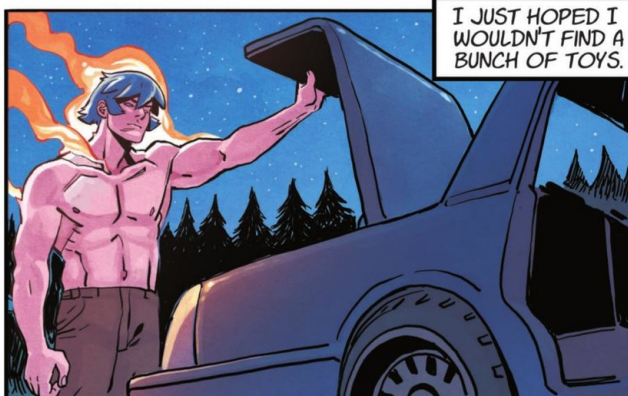


I DIDN'T EVEN NEED TO READ THEIR MINDS.

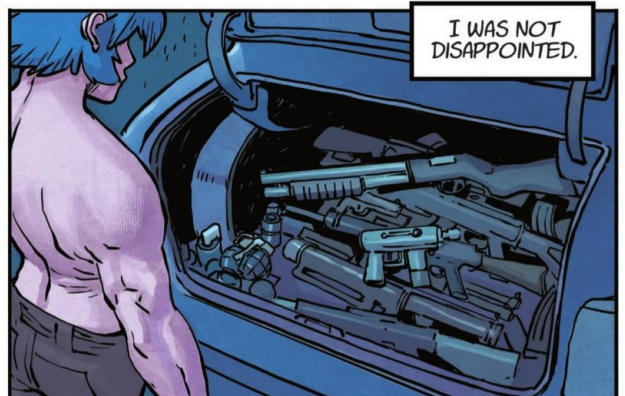
SO I HAD A LITTLE FUN.



MAYBE THEY'LL RE-THINK THE GUN-RUNNING BIZ...



I JUST HOPED I WOULDN'T FIND A BUNCH OF TOYS.



I WAS NOT DISAPPOINTED.

THE LONGEST
PART OF THE
PLAN WAS
WAITING.



AFTERWARDS, I
JUST HAD TO
MOVE FAST...



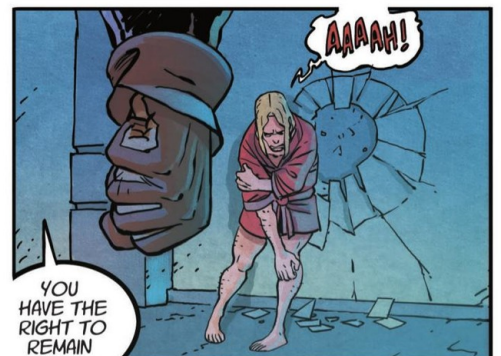
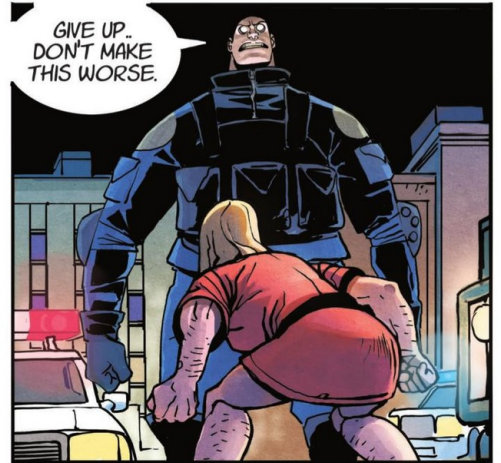
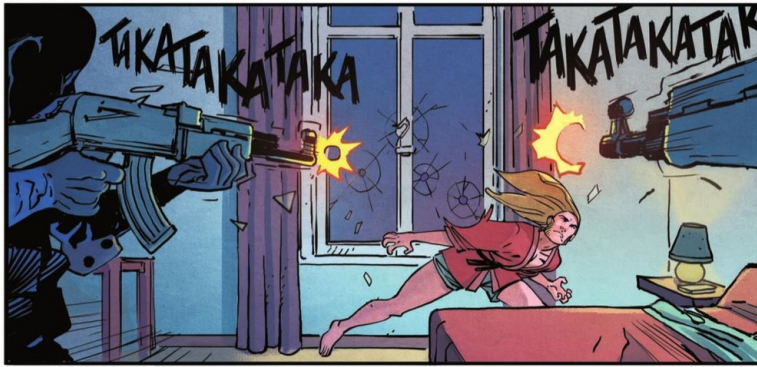
...AND BE SURE NOT
TO LEAVE A TRACE.



THEN IT WAS
BACK TO WAITING.

I COULD HAVE LEFT RIGHT AWAY,
BUT I WANTED TO BE SURE THE
TRAP CLOSED WITH THE GUY
INSIDE.





THREE DAYS LATER



SO YOU'LL BURY HIM IN A CELL FOR A WHILE? WE DON'T NEED ANYONE CUTTING IN ON OUR ACTION.



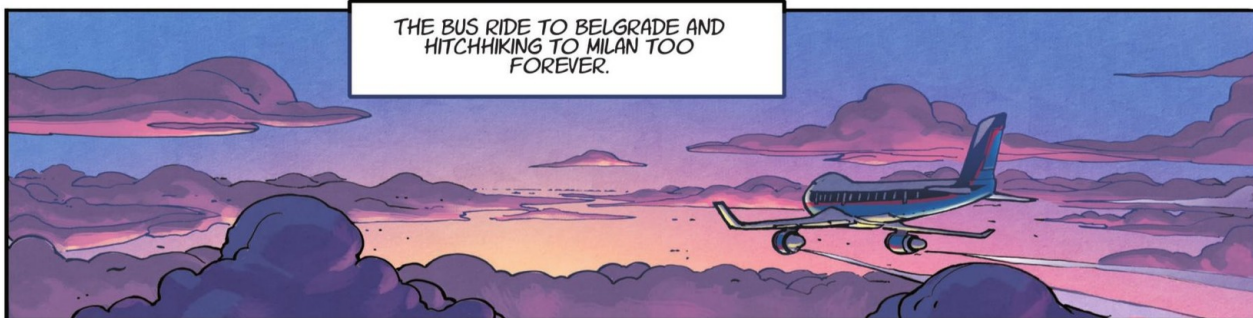
WITH EVERYTHING WE FOUND IN HIS HOTEL ROOM AND HIS RESISTING ARREST, THAT SHOULD NOT BE A PROBLEM.

THANKS FOR HAVING OUR BACK.

OF COURSE.



THE BUS RIDE TO BELGRADE AND HITCHHIKING TO MILAN TOO FOREVER.



I'D FINALLY BE ABLE TO STOP RUNNING.



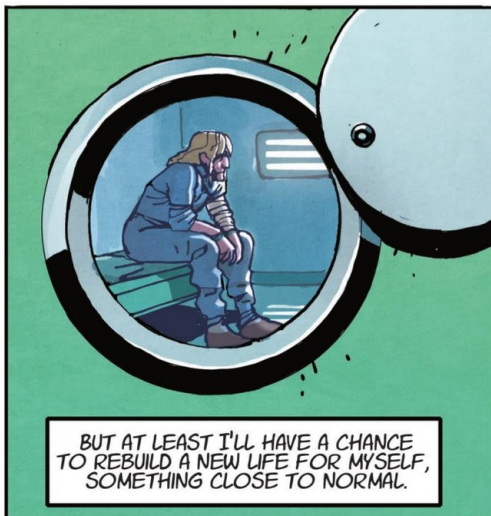
BUT MY JOURNEY WAS COMING TO AN END.



I DOUBT I'LL EVER TURN THE PAGE COMPLETELY.



BUT AT LEAST I'LL HAVE A CHANCE TO REBUILD A NEW LIFE FOR MYSELF, SOMETHING CLOSE TO NORMAL.

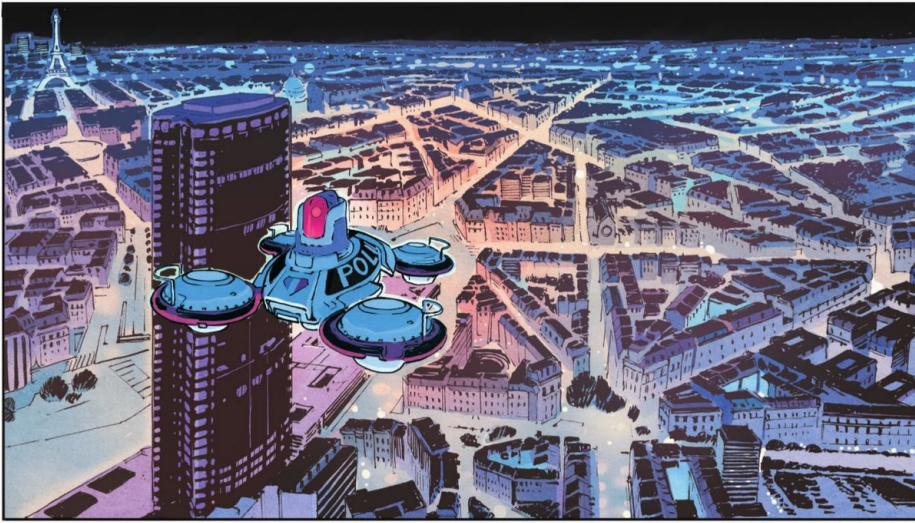


END OF INTERLUDE

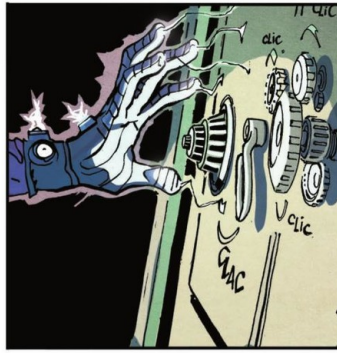


PART FIVE: MONKEY



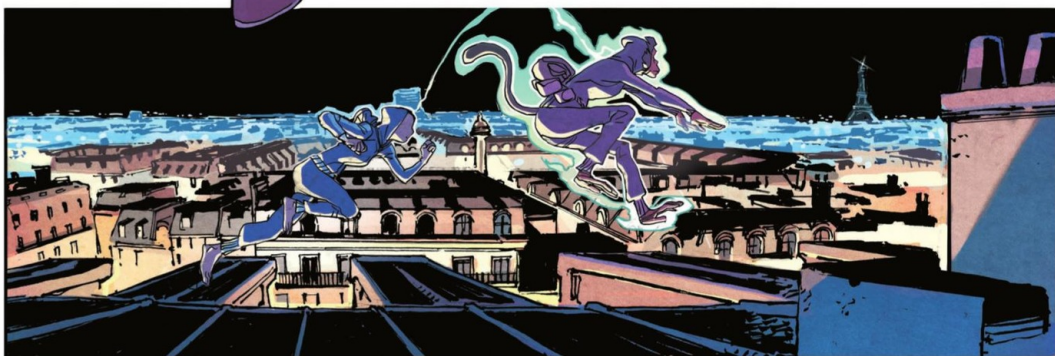






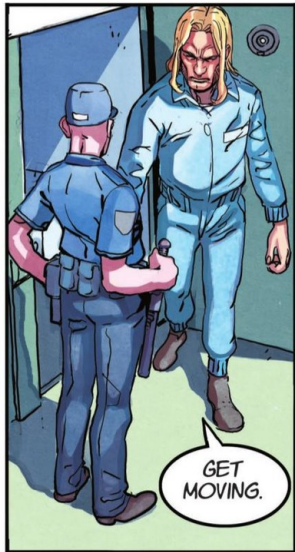
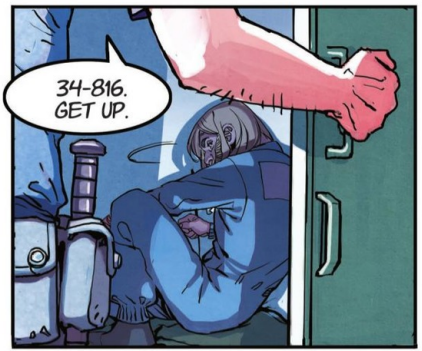


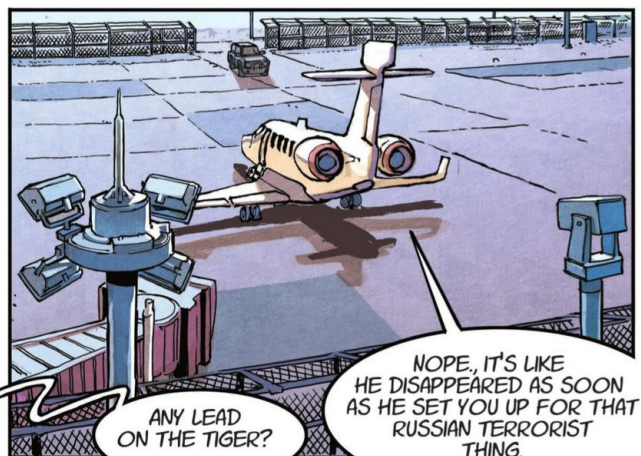
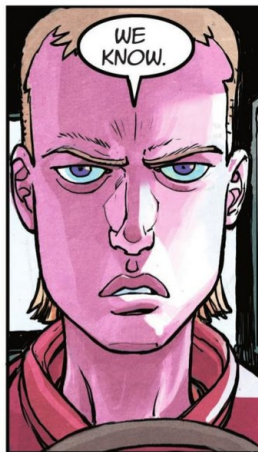
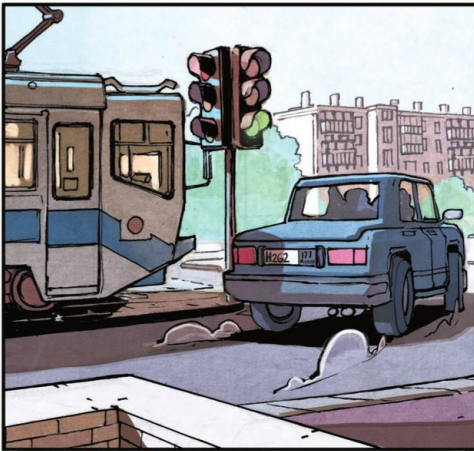
WHAT WOULD YOU
DO WITHOUT ME,
DARLING?





MEANWHILE,
IN MOSCOW





TWO DAYS
LATER



UNDERSTANDABLE.
WHO NEEDS ANOTHER
SUGARY DRINK TO MAKE
THEM FAT AND
GASSY?







HEY, ANGE,
CONGRATS AGAIN!
YOU REALLY SCORED!

THANKS,
YES.

G'NIGHT.

I SHOULD PROBABLY
EXPLAIN SOME STUFF.

I SWUNG THROUGH
MOSCOW TO GET
RID OF OSWALD, THEN
I CAME HERE...

I DECIDED TO REALLY CHANGE MY LIFE. FIRST, I NEEDED
TO FIND A PARTNER TO SHARE MY DIZHI, SO I WOULDN'T
GET SICK LIKE I WAS IN KANGBASHI.



IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS
SINCE I LEFT LISA BEHIND
IN CHINA.



...I ALWAYS
WANTED TO
SEE PARIS!



IT WAS SURPRISING TO SEE
WHO EACH TOTEM CHOSE
TO PAIR ME UP WITH...



...AND NOW I HAVE
THREE DIFFERENT
PARTNERS.

BUT I'LL
INTRODUCE
THEM LATER.



ONLY THREE, WHICH MEANS THAT
ONE DIZHI -- THE HORSE -- HAS
YET TO FIND A SUITABLE SECOND.



BUT THAT
HASN'T BEEN
A PROBLEM. I
FEEL A LOT
BETTER. I'VE
FOUND BALANCE
AGAIN.

MY JOB, WHILE NOT IDEAL, AT LEAST GIVES ME A SENSE OF NORMALCY.



BUT FROM TIME TO TIME, I ALLOW MYSELF A LITTLE TIME FOR JUSTICE.

NO MORE COSTUMES, THOUGH. THAT'S IN THE PAST.



WHAT THE... YOU PUSHED ME!



SORRY. ACCIDENT.

SURE IT WAS -- TELL IT TO MY FRIEND!



I PREFER TO BE A BIT MORE DISCREET NOW.

OF COURSE, WITHOUT "THE KLAU" IN THE NEWS FIGHTING CRIME...

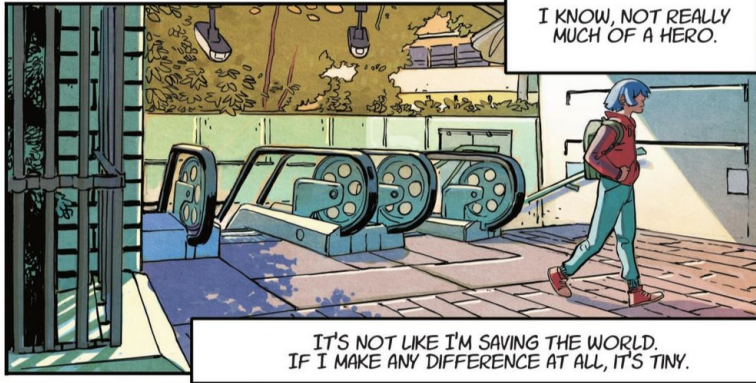


...THE BAD GUYS AREN'T AFRAID.



BUT THAT'S JUST FINE BY ME.



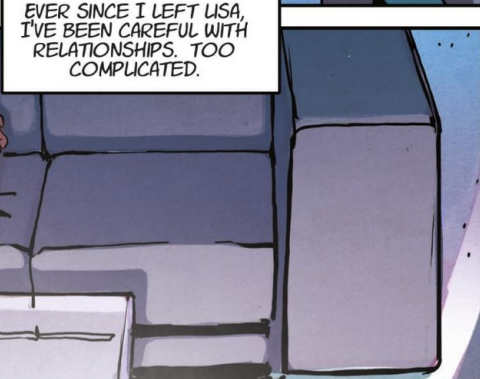




I'll stop you right there. Denis is not one of my partners. He's just a cool kid. His mother is a nurse who leaves him alone too often for my taste.



AND I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL — DENIS IS STARTING TO THINK I'M FALLING IN LOVE WITH HIS MOM...



AND MY POWERS DON'T MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER.

EVER SINCE I LEFT USA, I'VE BEEN CAREFUL WITH RELATIONSHIPS. TOO COMPLICATED.





I HOPE YOU LIKE IT. NO MORE INTERFACE — YOU CAN CONTROL IT WITH JUST A THOUGHT!

PERFECT! GREAT WORK.



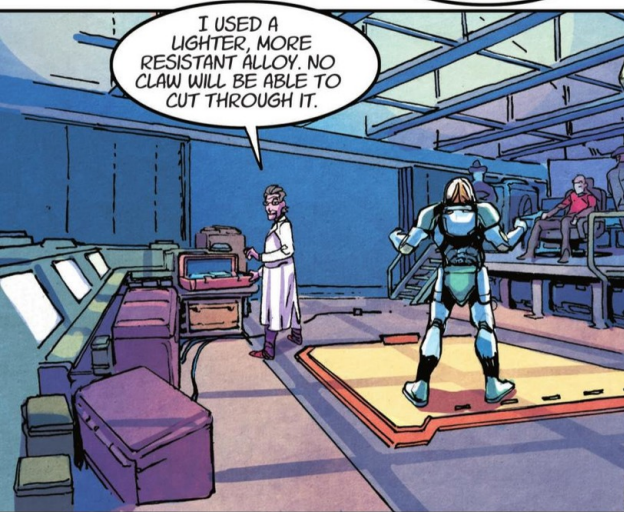
IT'S AMAZING HOW MUCH TECHNOLOGY CAN ADVANCE IN TWO YEARS.

IF WE HAD THAT TECH WHEN WE WERE STILL WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT...



THAT TECH AND THIS MONEY!

HERE, TRY ON THE HELMET. I'VE ADDED A FEATURE I THINK YOU'LL REALLY LIKE.



I USED A LIGHTER, MORE RESISTANT ALLOY. NO CLAW WILL BE ABLE TO CUT THROUGH IT.

JUST LOOK UP AND FIND AN OBJECT THAT'S REALLY HIGH.



WHOA!



JEFF, YOU'RE A GENIUS!

THANKS...

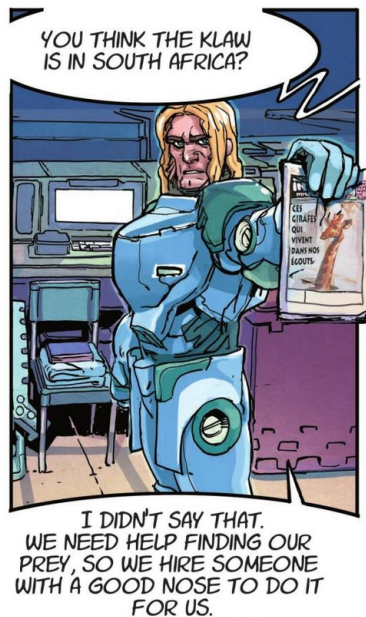
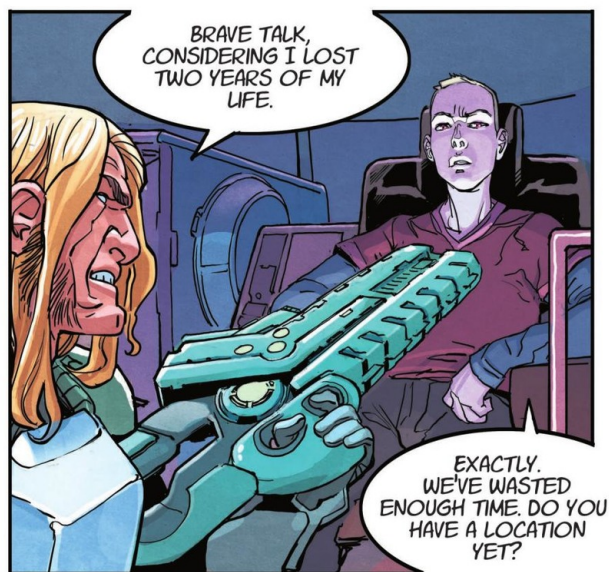
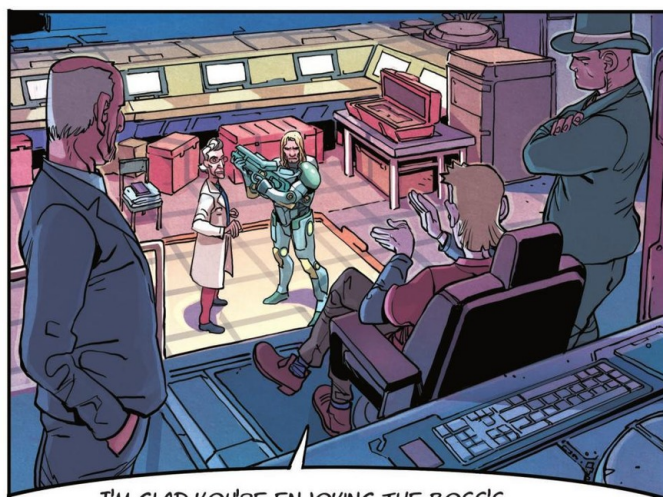
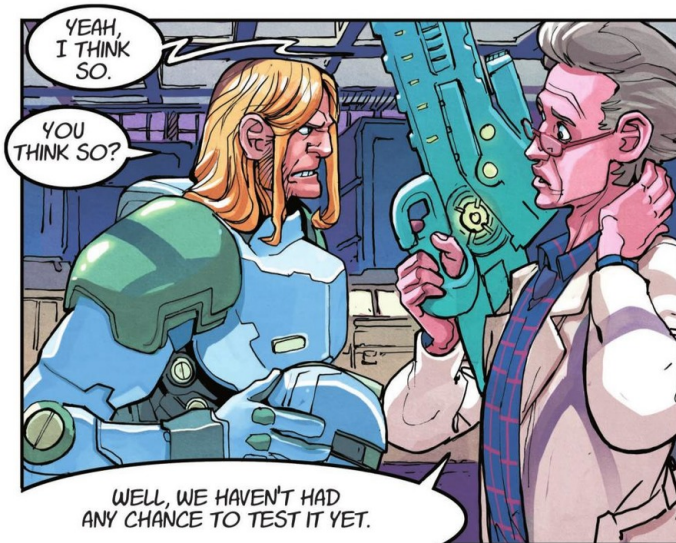
I ALSO UPGRADED YOUR WEAPON. IT NO LONGER MERELY PARALYZES A DIZHI...

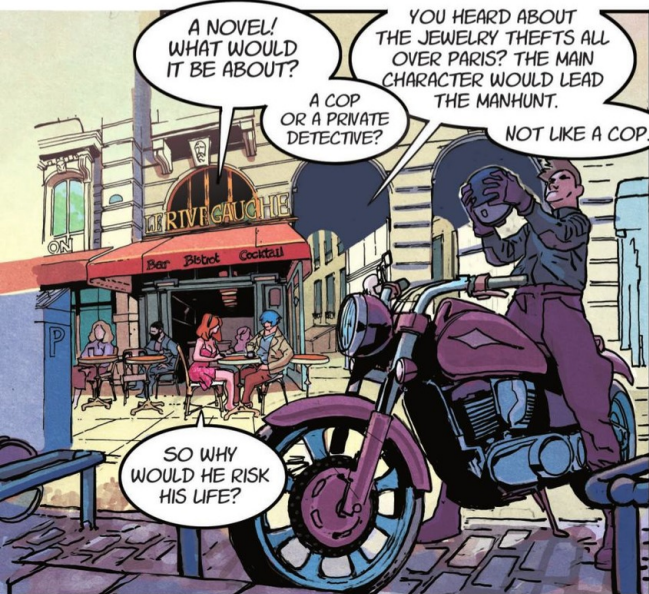
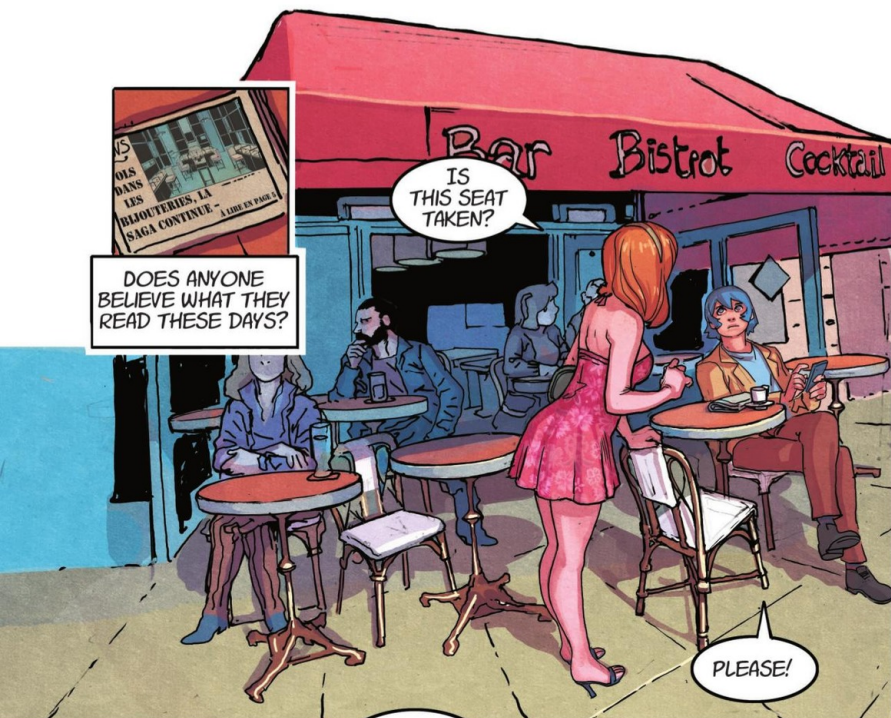


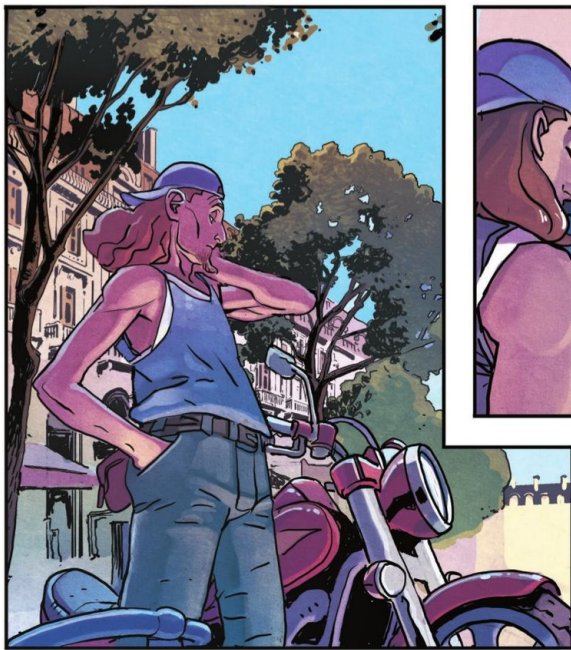
... NOW IT KILLS THE HOST AND ABSORBS THE POWER INTO THIS CARTRIDGE.



SO WE DON'T HAVE TO KEEP THE BODIES IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION LIKE WE USED TO?





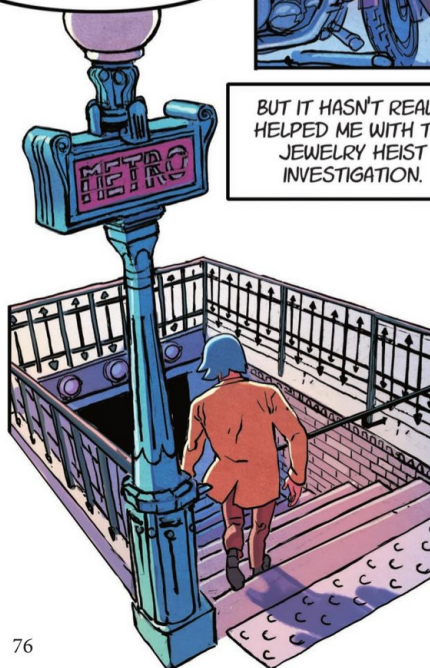


I'M JUST TELLING YOU, IN TEN SECONDS, TWO COPS ARE GOING TO LEAVE THE RESTAURANT BEHIND ME. THEY'D CATCH YOU STEALING THAT BIKE RED-HANDED.

YOU'LL TRY TO RUN, BUT THEY'LL CATCH YOU AND YOU'LL GO TO JAIL.

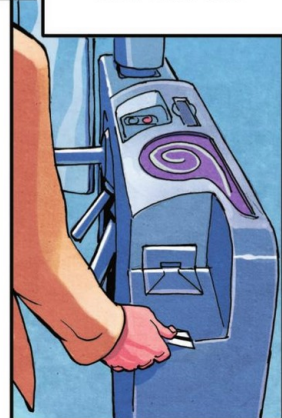


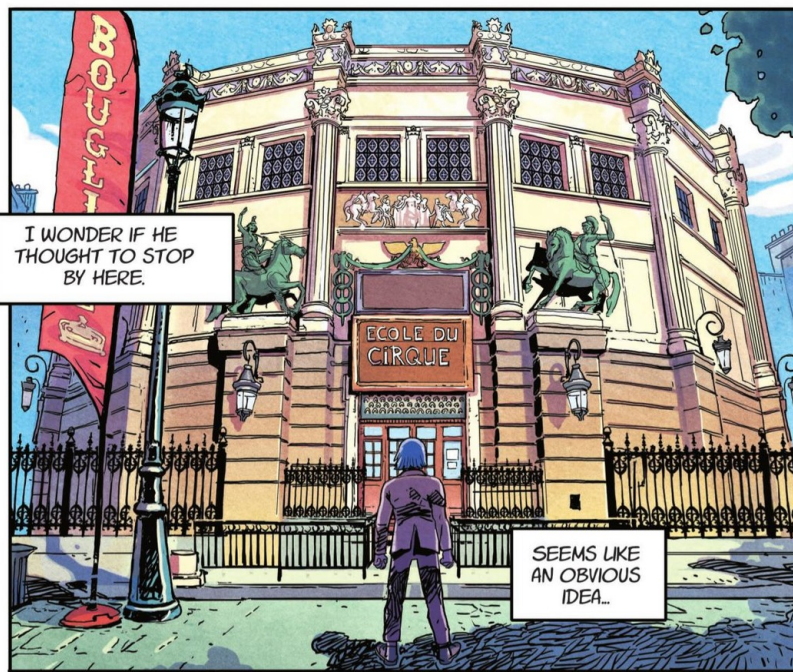
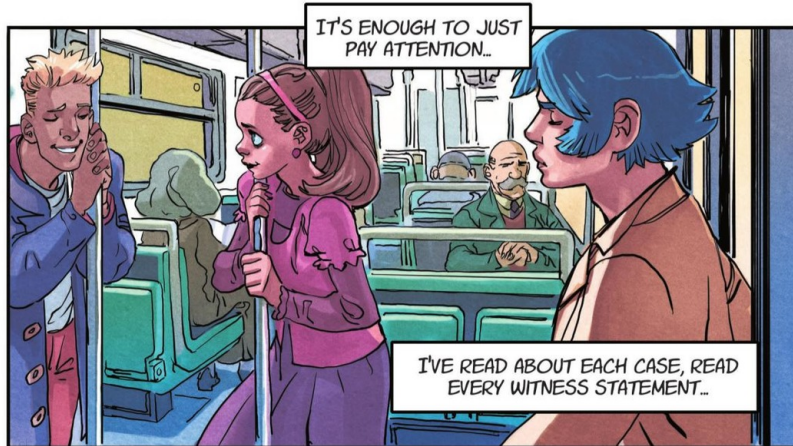
YOU'RE FULL OF IT.



BUT IT HASN'T REALLY HELPED ME WITH THE JEWELRY HEIST INVESTIGATION.

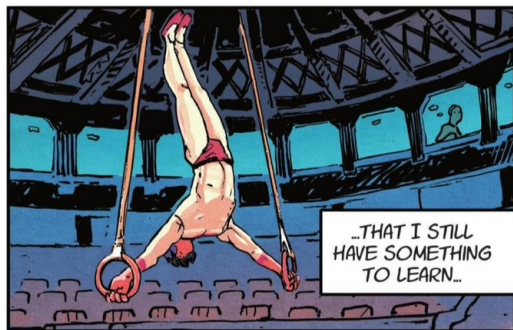
I DID TELL MYSELF NOT TO GET INVOLVED IN SOMETHING SO HIGH-PROFILE..







YOU CAN FILL OUT AN APPLICATION, BUT WILL HAVE TO PASS A BASIC PROFICIENCY TEST.







TAKE IT EASY, I'VE GOT FRIENDS...



WHAT, THESE HOBOS? YOU WANNA START A WAR?



WHAT'S STOPPING ME FROM ABSORBING YOUR POWER RIGHT NOW?

BECAUSE IF YOU ABSORB MY DIZHI, YOUR OWN WILL GET WEAKER.

TRUE, YOU ARE A BIT TOO DOCILE FOR ME...



BUT THAT'S NO REASON TO DISRESPECT OUR AGREEMENT. I WANT MORE POWER. YOU PROMISED TO FIND ME MORE DIZHI.

I... I'VE BEEN BUSY...

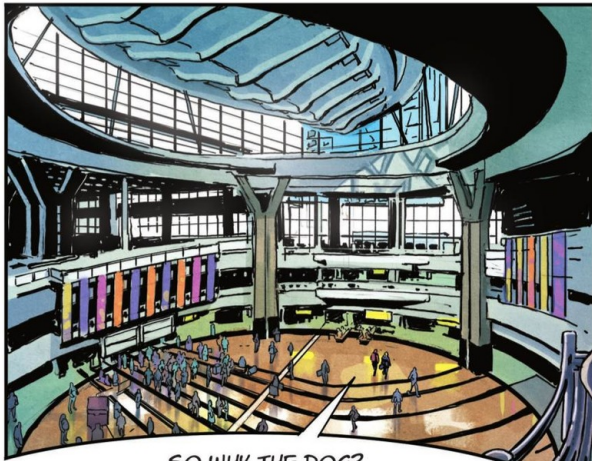
YOU'VE GOT TEN DAYS. THAT'S IT. THEN YOUR DIZHI IS MINE.



EVEN IF I HAVE TO CHOKE IT DOWN.



AND DON'T TRY TO RUN FROM ME AGAIN.



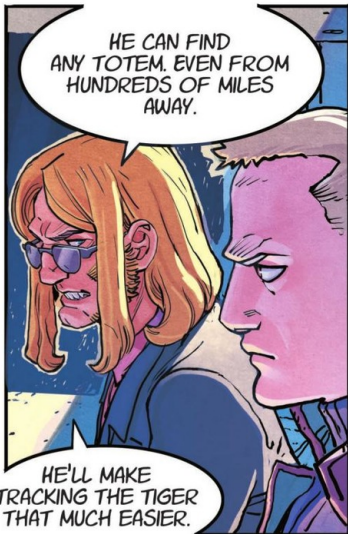
SO WHY THE DOG?
SEEMS LIKE A WEAK DIZHI, AND LET ME REMIND
YOU THAT MISTER TOMASSINI IS WAITING FOR RESULTS.
HE ONLY CARES ABOUT CAPTURING "THE KLAW."



I TOLD YOU
ALREADY -- SOMETIMES
THE DIRECT PATH ISN'T
THE FASTEST.



THE DOG IS
DEFINITELY THE WEAKEST
AND STUPIDEST COWARD
OF ALL THE DIZHI, BUT
HE'S OUR BEST
BET.



HE CAN FIND
ANY TOTEM, EVEN FROM
HUNDREDS OF MILES
AWAY.

HE'LL MAKE
TRACKING THE TIGER
THAT MUCH EASIER.



WHAT MAKES
YOU THINK HE'LL
WANT TO WORK
WITH US?

WHO SAID
WE'D GIVE HIM
A CHOICE?

HA.

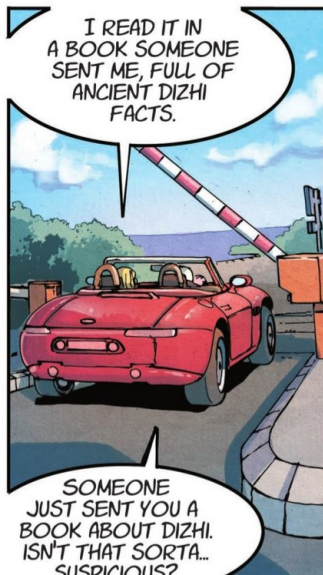


WHAT?

NOTHING,
I JUST LIKE THE
WAY YOU THINK.



BUT ONE THING I DON'T
UNDERSTAND IS HOW YOU KNOW
SO MUCH ABOUT THE DIZHI. DID ONE
OF THEM TELL YOU ALL
OF THIS?



I READ IT IN
A BOOK SOMEONE
SENT ME, FULL OF
ANCIENT DIZHI
FACTS.

SOMEONE
JUST SENT YOU A
BOOK ABOUT DIZHI.
ISN'T THAT SORTA...
SUSPICIOUS?



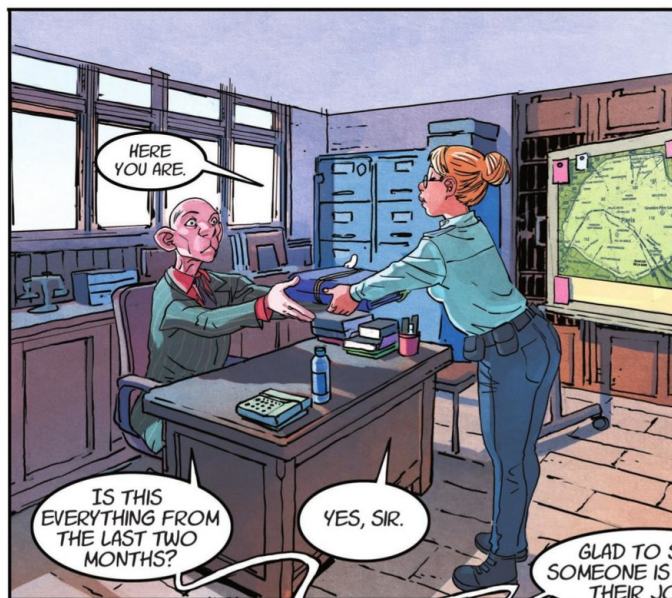
IT WAS AN OLD BOOK.
FAR TOO OLD TO BE WRITTEN
JUST FOR ME. I BELIEVE IT'S ONE
HUNDRED PERCENT AUTHENTIC.

BUT I'M NOT AN IDIOT.
I'M SURE SOMEONE SENT IT
TO ME FOR A REASON...

...BUT DOES IT MATTER IF IT HELPS US REACH OUR GOAL?



INSPECTOR? YOU ASKED ME TO COLLECT EVERYTHING WE HAVE ON THE PARIS ROBBERIES...



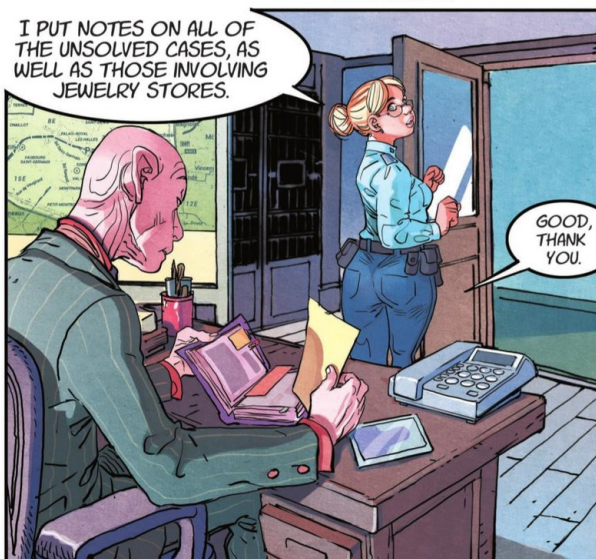
HERE YOU ARE.

IS THIS EVERYTHING FROM THE LAST TWO MONTHS?

YES, SIR.

GLAD TO SEE SOMEONE IS DOING THEIR JOB.

I PUT NOTES ON ALL OF THE UNSOLVED CASES, AS WELL AS THOSE INVOLVING JEWELRY STORES.



GOOD, THANK YOU.



EITHER THE MONKEY IS AN IDIOT, OR HE THINKS HE'S INVINCIBLE...





HEY,
NEW GUY!



HI.

WHAT'S
UP?



MY FRIENDS AND
I SAW YOUR TRYOUT.
WELCOME ABOARD.

THANKS, BUT I HAVEN'T
GOTTEN AN ANSWER BACK YET.

SERIOUSLY?
IF THEY DON'T ACCEPT
YOU, THEY MIGHT AS WELL
CLOSE SHOP.



WE WERE
WONDERING IF YOU'D
LIKE TO GET A DRINK
WITH US? YOU CAN
MEET EVERYONE.



THAT'S NICE
OF YOU, BUT I'VE GOT
WORK TO DO.



COME ON,
JUST ONE
DRINK.

WHAT KIND
OF WORK CAN'T
WAIT FOR A FEW
MINUTES?



OKAY, FINE.
BUT I CAN'T STAY
OUT LONG.



GREAT!

I'M JUNE,
BY THE WAY.



WHO WAS
I KIDDING?



I HAVE NO IDEA HOW LONG
WE SPENT IN THE BAR.



BUT I DO KNOW THE
SUBWAY WAS CLOSED
WHEN WE LEFT.



AT FIRST, I SAID YES IN
CASE IT COULD HELP
MY INVESTIGATION.



I WAS, AND STILL AM, CONVINCED
THE THIEF WAS RIGHT THERE
IN THE ROOM.



BUT THEN I FORGOT,
RELAXED A BIT...



IT HAD BEEN SO LONG
SINCE I HUNG OUT
WITH NEW PEOPLE.



WE LAUGHED A LOT...
MAYBE A LITTLE TOO MUCH...



AND MY
INVESTIGATION
WENT NOWHERE.



IF I SAY "YES," SHE'LL ASK IF I WAS OUT PARTYING ALL NIGHT...

IF I SAY "NO," SHE'LL TELL ME IT'LL DO ME GOOD, AND THAT I LOOK LIKE I DIDN'T GET MUCH SLEEP.



NO, THANKS. I STAYED UP TOO LATE WORKING ON MY BOOK.



IN BOTH CASES, SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN ASKING OUT OF JEALOUSY. I CAN HEAR HER THINKING HOW RELIEVED SHE IS THAT I DIDN'T MEET SOMEBODY LAST NIGHT...



WAIT, WHAT'S SHE DOING?

"OKAY, HERE I GO..."





NADJI JUST GOT PUT IN THE HOSPITAL, AND I NEED SOMEONE TO TAKE ON HIS CLIENTS...



WHAT'S THAT...?

I KNOW IT'S A LOT OF WORK, BUT THEY'RE GOOD PROJECTS...



ARE YOU LISTENING?



YEAH, I'M... SORRY, I JUST REMEMBERED I DIDN'T PUT ANY MONEY IN MY PARKING METER.



BUT SURE -- I'LL TAKE THE JOB!



GREAT.

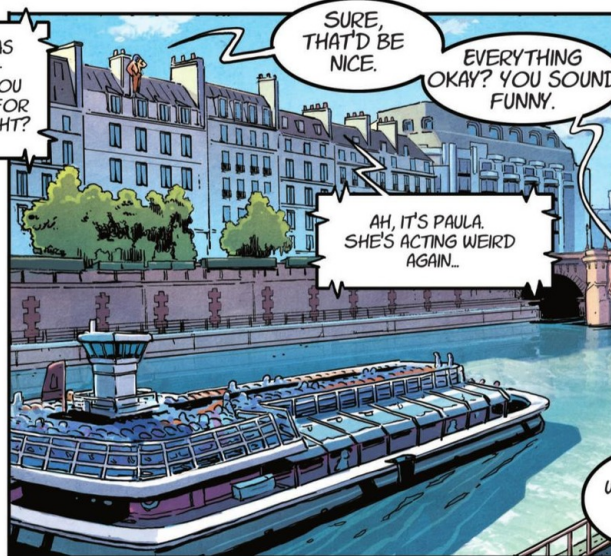


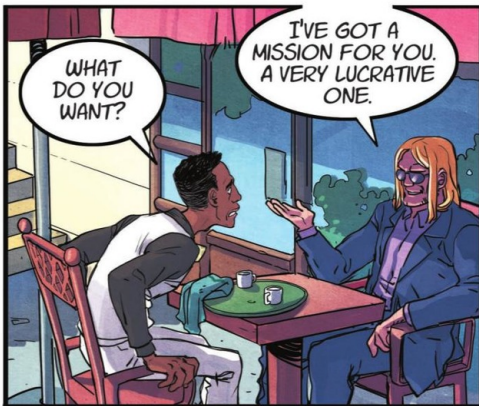
THAT GUY IN GREEN... I'VE GOT A FEELING...



SOMETHING ABOUT HIM... I'M SURE HE'S LINKED TO THE DIZHIS SOMEHOW.







TWO HOURS
LATER



I'M HERE
TO SEE THE
BOSS.



WHAT IS
IT?

IT'S
ABOUT THE
DIZHI.

YOU FOUND
ONE?



NOT YET, BUT I...
I MET A GUY WHO
WANTS ME TO
FIND ONE FOR HIM...

WHAT? HOW'D HE KNOW YOU
WERE THE DOG?

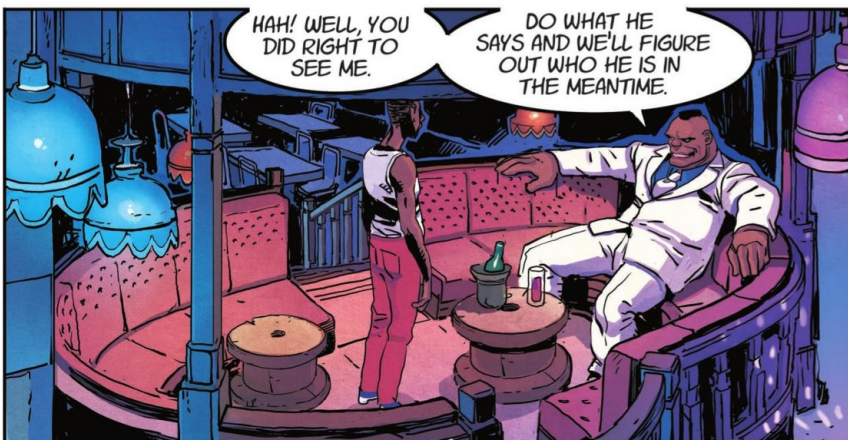


I DON'T KNOW,
BUT HE'S A SCARY DUDE.



SCARIER
THAN ME?

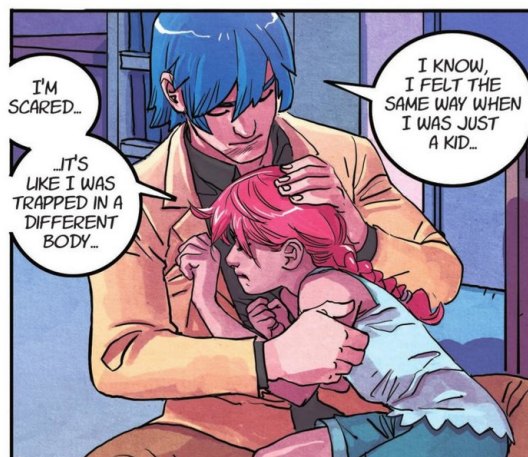
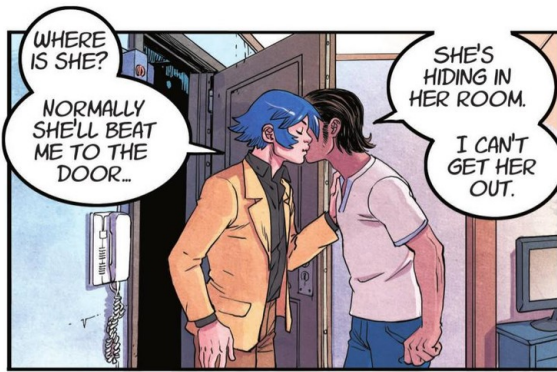
NO OFFENSE, SIR, BUT HE FROZE MY
BLOOD LIKE NOBODY ELSE.



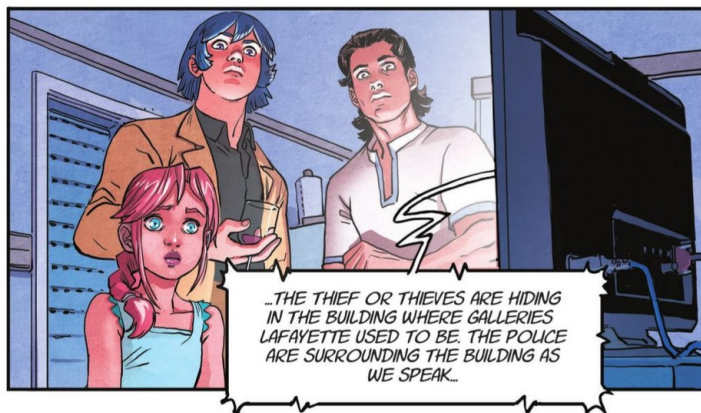
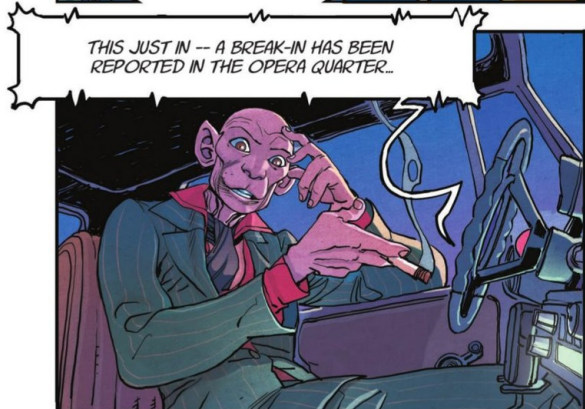
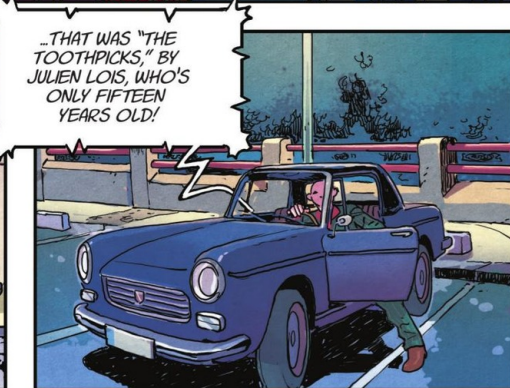
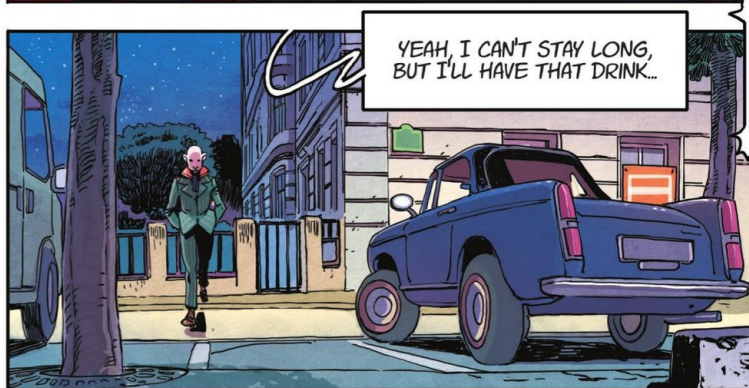
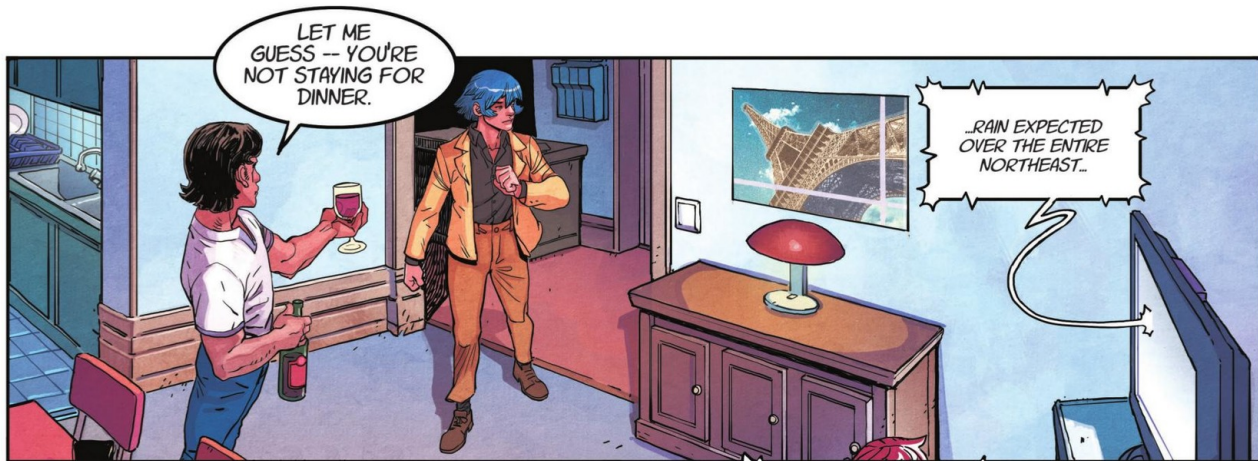
HAH! WELL, YOU
DID RIGHT TO
SEE ME.

DO WHAT HE
SAYS AND WE'LL FIGURE
OUT WHO HE IS IN
THE MEANTIME.





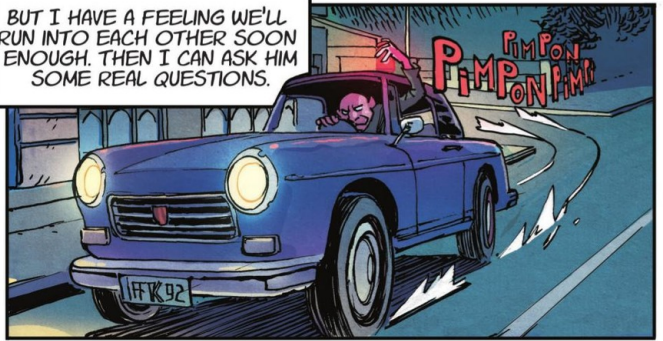






I'LL HAVE TO CHAT WITH THAT STRANGE COP LATER. RIGHT NOW, I HAVE TO GET TO THAT BREAK-IN!

BUT I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL RUN INTO EACH OTHER SOON ENOUGH. THEN I CAN ASK HIM SOME REAL QUESTIONS.



LIKE HOW HE WAS ABLE TO FOLLOW ME EVEN AFTER I CHANGED MY APPEARANCE.

OR HOW HE KNOWS MY NAME.



OR MOST OF ALL, HOW HE KNEW PAULA HAD A DIZHI INSIDE HER!



BUT RIGHT NOW, I HAVE TO CATCH THOSE ROBBERS BEFORE THE COPS DO!



DON'T ASK ME WHY, BUT SOMETHING INSIDE ME IS TELLING ME I HAVE TO...

...AND DIZHI ARE RARELY WRONG.





NOTE TO SELF:
IF I EVER GET A
HIDEOUT, SEAL OFF
ALL SEWER ACCESS
IMMEDIATELY!



THIS LOOKS
LIKE THE
RIGHT PLACE.



AND I'M
NOT
ALONE!



YOU!
HANDS UP SLOWLY!
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?!

CRAP!



REMEMBER,
HE'S ONE
OF THE
GOOD GUYS...



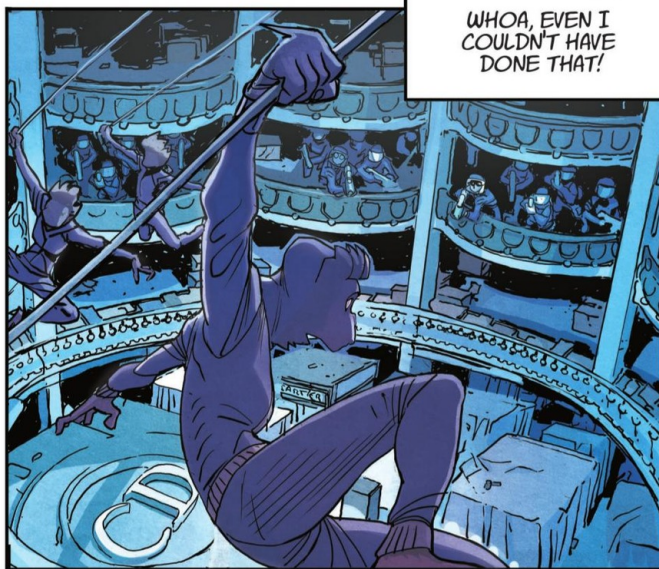
HUH?



TOMP



YOU
JUST REST UP
WHILE I TAKE
CARE OF THE
ROBBERS...





THANKS.

HAVE A GOOD ONE.



HEY, ANGE!

MISS US ALREADY?



YEAH, EXACTLY!

WERE YOU WITH THE OTHERS?



NO, WE HAD... A THING TO DO...



SO ARE THEY REALLY IN LOVE, OR IS IT JUST A COVER FOR THEIR ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES...?



MIND IF I SIT HERE?

NOT AT ALL.

ANGE, YOU WANT A DRINK?



ACTUALLY, I THINK I'LL GET A COUPLE OF SANDWICHES. I'M HUNGRY AS A TIGER!

GOT IT.

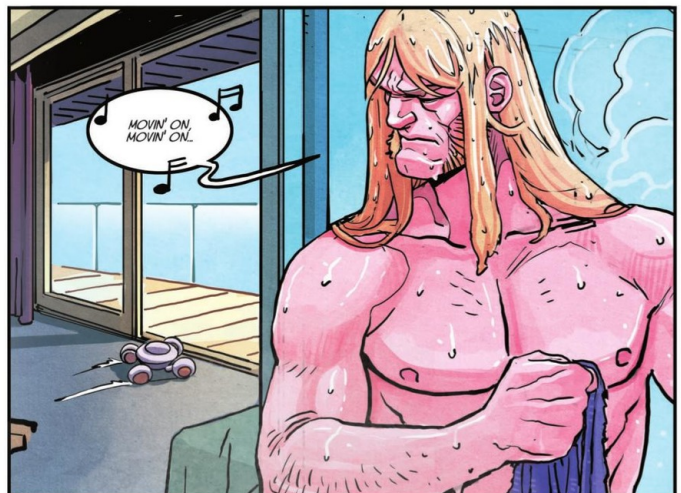
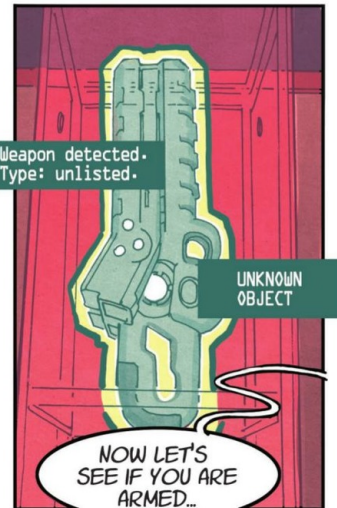
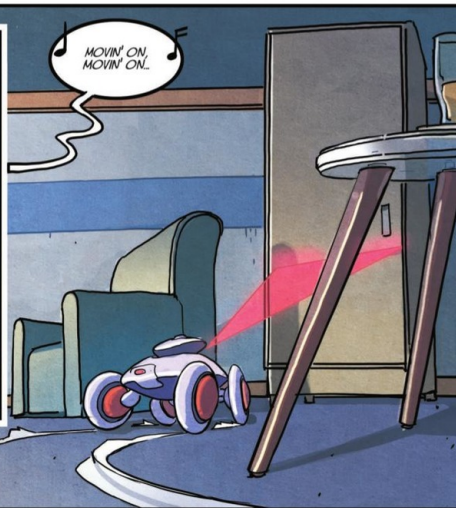
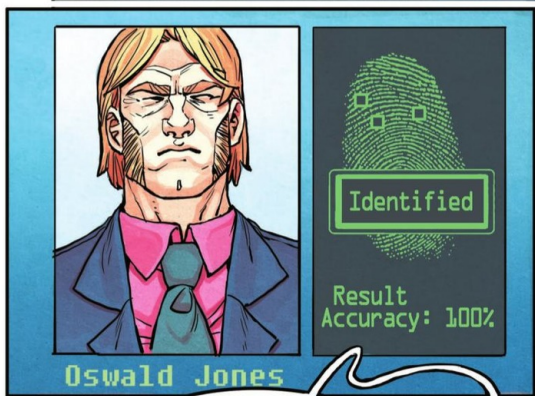
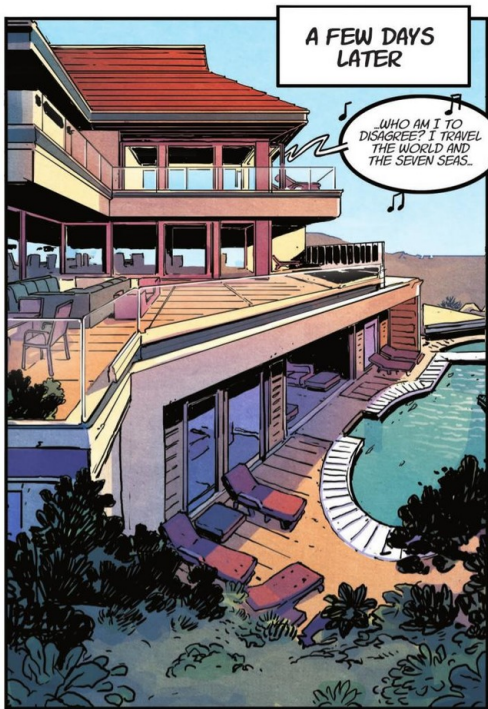


I USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO READ ALL OF THEIR MINDS. EITHER I STILL DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND THE RABBIT'S POWER, OR THEY'RE NOT HIDING ANYTHING.

I DON'T GET IT. HOW COULD I BE WRONG ABOUT THEM?



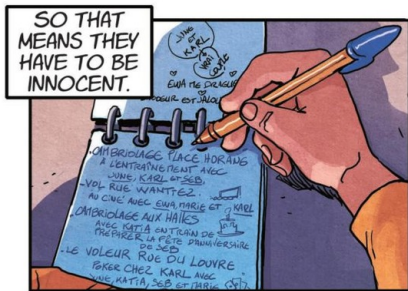
IN ANY CASE, I'D SURE LIKE TO KNOW WHERE I COULD FIND SOMEONE AS ACROBATIC AS THE GUY I SAW TONIGHT.







OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS, I TAILED EACH OF THE STUDENTS FROM THE SCHOOL. I WAS WITH EACH OF THEM DURING AT LEAST ONE OF THE HEISTS.



SO THAT MEANS THEY HAVE TO BE INNOCENT.

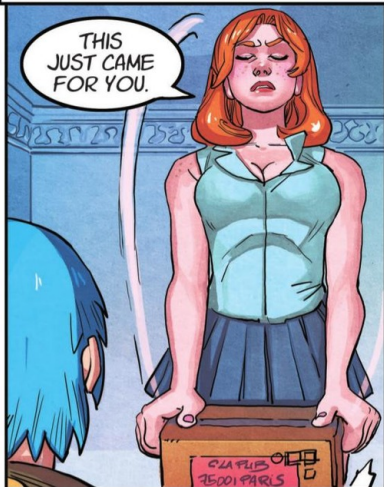


IT LOOKS LIKE I'M BACK TO SQUARE ONE.

MORNING, ANGE.

UM, HEY.

I BOUGHT A POLICE RADIO SCANNER SO I CAN MONITOR CRIMINAL ACTIVITY.



THIS JUST CAME FOR YOU.



THE NEXT TIME THE THIEF TAKES ACTION, I'LL KNOW ABOUT IT IMMEDIATELY.

OH... THANKS.

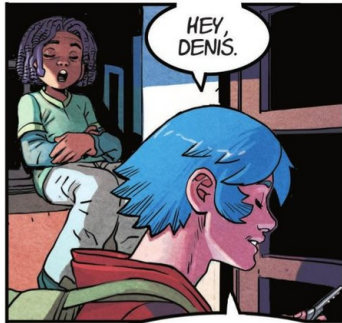


LET'S HOPE MY POWERS CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



BLEGH!

EVEN WITH GOOD MARKETING, WE WON'T MAKE ANYONE LIKE THIS STUFF!



HEY,
DENIS.

LET ME GUESS --
HOME ALONE AND
YOU FORGOT YOUR
KEYS?

NOPE,
I WAS WAITING
FOR YOU.



I KNOW YOUR REAL
NAME ISN'T RILEY.

OH
YEAH?

YEAH! I SAW THE ACTOR'S NAME ON
THE MOVIE POSTER FOR "CONTROL"
THAT YOU THREW AWAY.



SHOOT,
YOU WON'T RAT
ME OUT, WILL
YOU?

NOT IF WE WATCH ANOTHER MOVIE...

WELL, JUST MY LUCK -- I RENTED
"THE MURDERER LIVES AT
NUMBER 21"...



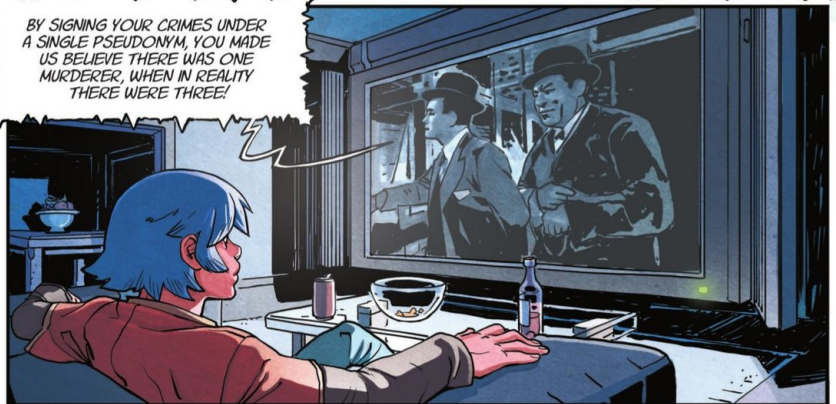
IS IT
SCARY?

I HOPE
SO!



IT'S A SHOELACE
THAT CAN TURN INTO
A NOOSE!

BY SIGNING YOUR CRIMES UNDER
A SINGLE PSEUDONYM, YOU MADE
US BELIEVE THERE WAS ONE
MURDERER, WHEN IN REALITY
THERE WERE THREE!



OH, MAN...
I GET IT NOW!
WE WERE NEVER
ALL TOGETHER!
THERE'S MORE
THAN ONE
THIEF!





WHAT'S GOING ON? YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED ME TO COME HERE...



WHAT? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...



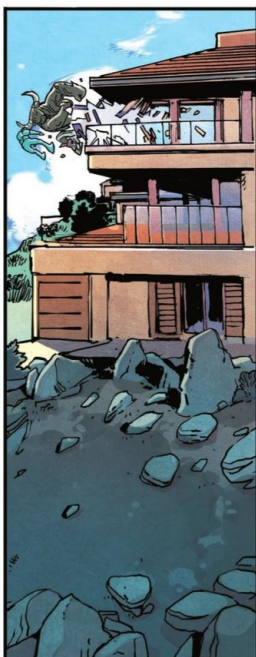
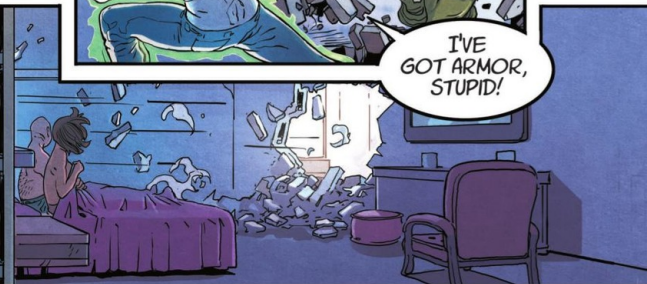
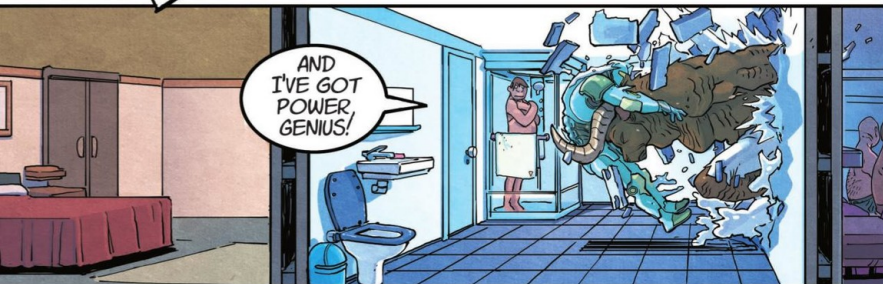
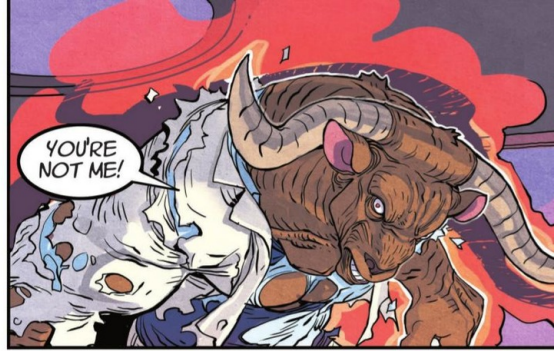
HOPE THAT LITTLE MUTT CAN HOLD OUT LONG ENOUGH...

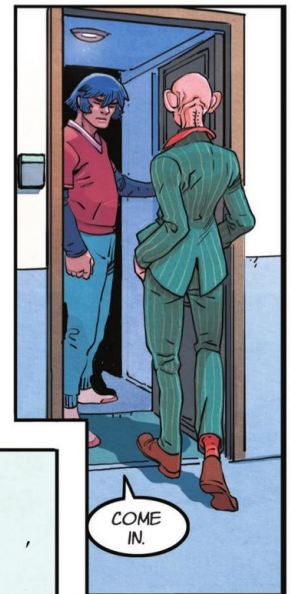
BOSS, WE GOT A PROBLEM.



GRRRRRRRRRR









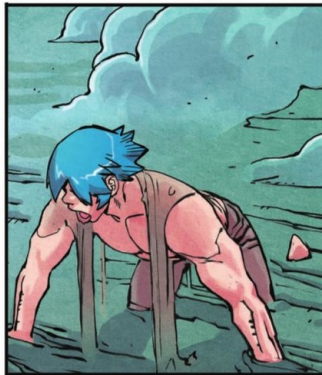
PART SIX: THE FORGOTTEN





EVER SINCE THEN, I'VE BEEN PARALYZED. IT'S LIKE I WAS SENT INSIDE MYSELF, LOST IN A VAST DESERT.





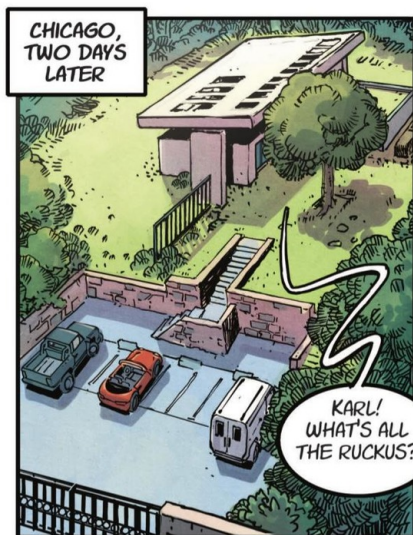
PLEASE...



I'M SORRY TO USE SUCH
DRASTIC MEASURES, ANGEL.
BUT I WANTED TO BE SURE
I HAD YOUR ATTENTION...



...AND I
WANTED TO AVOID ANY
INTERRUPTION YOUR ANGER
MAY CAUSE.





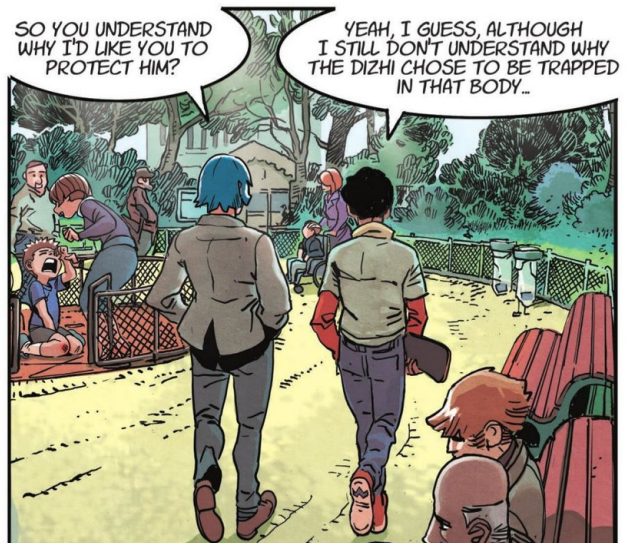




IT'S DIFFERENT FOR PAULA. THE TIGER WAS MY FIRST TOTEM. I CAN'T SEPARATE FROM IT. PLUS, THIS GUY ALREADY KNOWS ABOUT HER.



I DON'T THINK SO, BUT I CAN'T PROMISE ANYTHING. WE WON'T BE ANY WEAKER IF WE TAKE HIM FROM ALL SIDES WITH OUR DIFFERENT TOTEMS.



WELL, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE RABBIT WOULD CHOOSE SOME STREET THIEF?



HA, Y'KNOW, I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE...

HEY, DESPITE YOUR ORIGINS, YOU'RE A GOOD GUY, AADI. THE RABBIT PICKED YOU.



HA! THANKS, COACH.



HEY, LUCIE.

HI, ANGE.



PIERRE, THIS IS AADI. HE'S THE GUY I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT. HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU WHILE I'M GONE.

HEY, PIERRE.



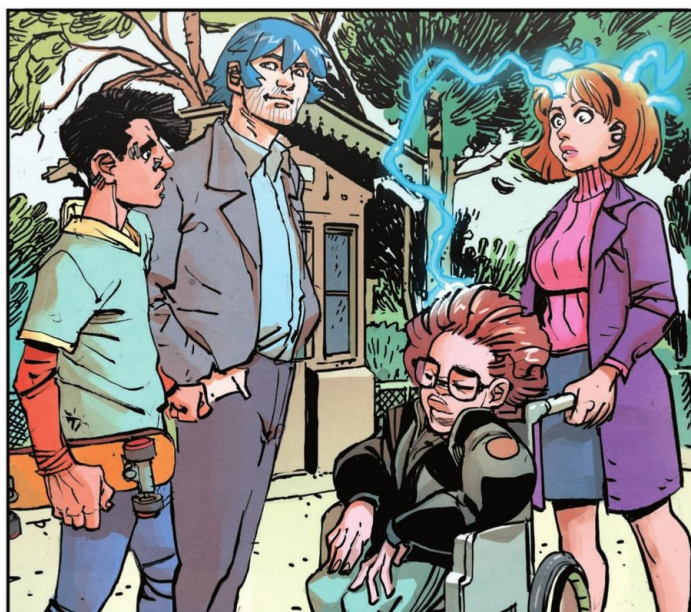
HELLO, AADI. SO DO YOU JUST EAT A LOT OF CARROTS, OR DO YOU HAVE OTHER POWERS, TOO?

WHOA! SO COOL! HOW --?



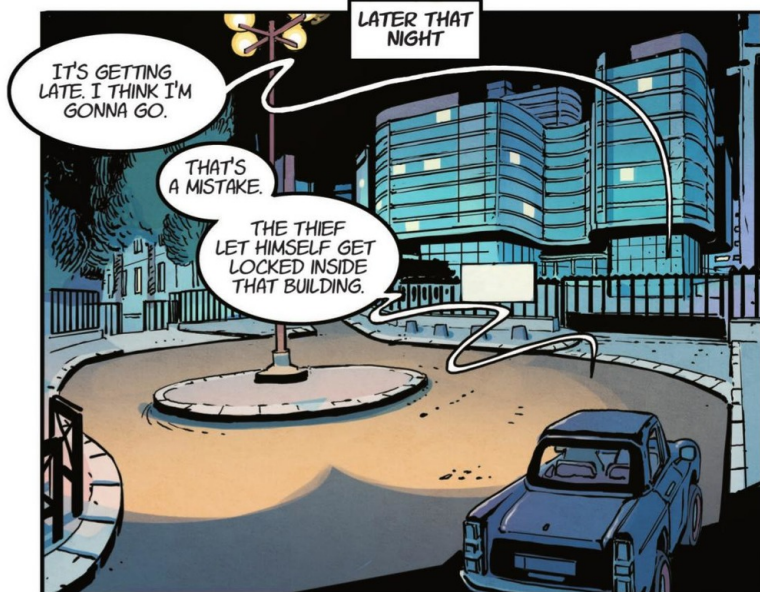
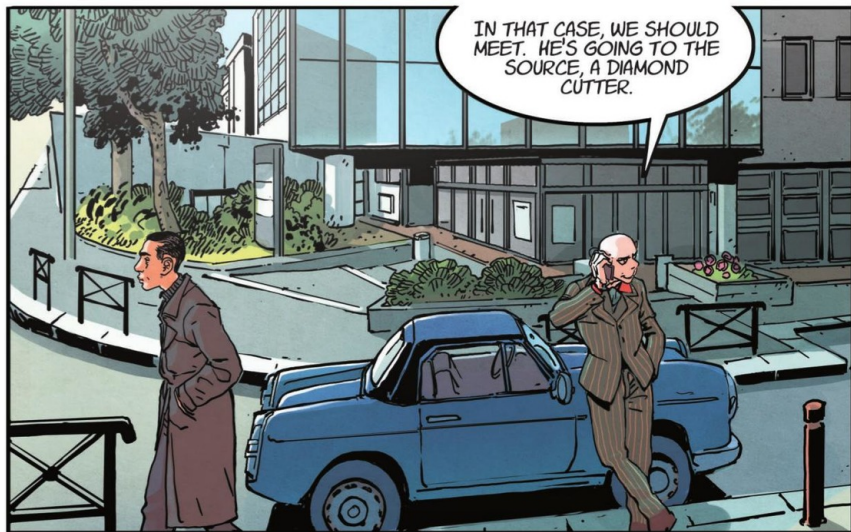
YOU'RE THE TELEPATH, GENIUS.


OH, RIGHT. SO WHAT'S YOUR POWER?



MY SICKNESS CHANGED MY POWER SLIGHTLY. SO INSTEAD OF TELEPORTING, I CAN SWAP BODIES.







HOW COULD I NOT THINK ABOUT IT?

THE GUY SITTING NEXT TO ME MIGHT BE AN ENEMY -- MAYBE THE MOST DANGEROUS ONE OF THEM ALL.

BUT HE CAME TO ME AS A FRIEND.

AND THEN HE TOLD ME THAT THE FAMOUS TWELVE DIZHI WHO DISAPPEARED AREN'T DEAD, THEY'RE JUST IN HIDING.

HE KNOWS THEM. HE REPRESENTS THEM. HE WAS ONE OF THEM. HE WAS THE CAT.

AN ANCIENT RITUAL WAS USED TO STRIP THE TOTEM FROM HIM.

THE PROCESS LEFT HIM WITH CERTAIN SIDE-EFFECTS, OR "POWERS," DEPENDING ON HOW YOU LOOK AT THEM.

EVER SINCE THEN, HE HAS HAD URGES -- HE NEEDS ME TO GIVE HIM A DIZHI.

HE WANTS US TO UNDERGO THE SAME RITUAL.

I HAVEN'T MENTIONED THE HORSE TO HIM SINCE IT HASN'T FOUND A PARTNER FOR ME YET.

BUT I DEFINITELY DON'T WANT HIM TO BE THAT PARTNER.



YOU KNOW WHAT MAKES ME REALLY NERVOUS, THOUGH?

I'M GONNA GET SOME AIR.



I CAN'T USE THE RABBIT'S POWER ON HIM.

DON'T GO TOO FAR.



IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET INTO HIS HEAD TO KNOW WHAT HE'S THINKING.



IT'S ME.

IT'S GOING TO BE HARDER THAN I THOUGHT. HE'S CAUTIOUS.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE CAN SEND ME OFF INTO SOME SORT OF MENTAL PRISON.



NO, HE HAS NO IDEA WE HELPED HIM IN MOSCOW.

HE HAS THE ADVANTAGE FOR NOW...



YET, IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH...

I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA FOR HIM TO FIND OUT.



IF HE IS A FRIEND...

THE GIRL? I THINK HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO STILL DOESN'T GET IT.



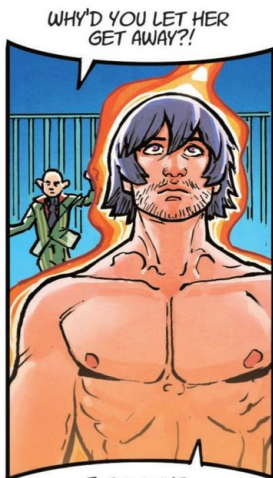
GOOD EVENING.

EVENING.





I...
I'M SORRY...



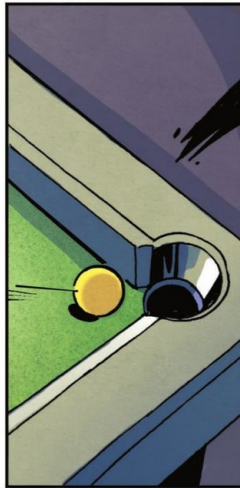
WHY'D YOU LET HER
GET AWAY?!

I GOT THE
DIAMONDS BACK.



YOU THINK THAT
WAS MORE IMPORTANT
THAN CATCHING THE
CULPRIT?!

I ONLY AGREED
TO HELP STOP THE
ROBBERIES.



MISTER SOKUMO! WHAT A SURPRISE. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!



PLAYING DEAD WAS A WISE CHOICE. BUT YOU SHOULD DO IT A LITTLE BETTER.







THE GUY STEALS YOUR GIRLFRIEND, AND YOU TRUST HIM?





LIKE YOUR FRIENDS?

EXACTLY.



BLEGH...

THEN TELL ME WHY THE TWELVE ZODIAC DIZHI BELIEVED THE OTHER TWELVE WERE DEAD.



THERE WAS A LEGEND THAT THERE WAS AN ULTIMATE POWER ABLE TO DESTROY A DIZHI... BUT IT NEVER EXISTED.

AND WHAT? YOU NEED AN ORACLE TO ANNOUNCE THEIR RETURN?



THAT WAS A LIE CREATED BY THE FORGOTTEN ONES TO HELP THEM DISAPPEAR.



YOU SHOULDN'T MAKE LIGHT OF THIS. WE'RE YOUR ONLY HOPE.



BIP BIP



BIP BIP



IT'S EWA. COME QUICKLY.



YEAH.



WHAT'S WRONG?

KATIA IS DYING.

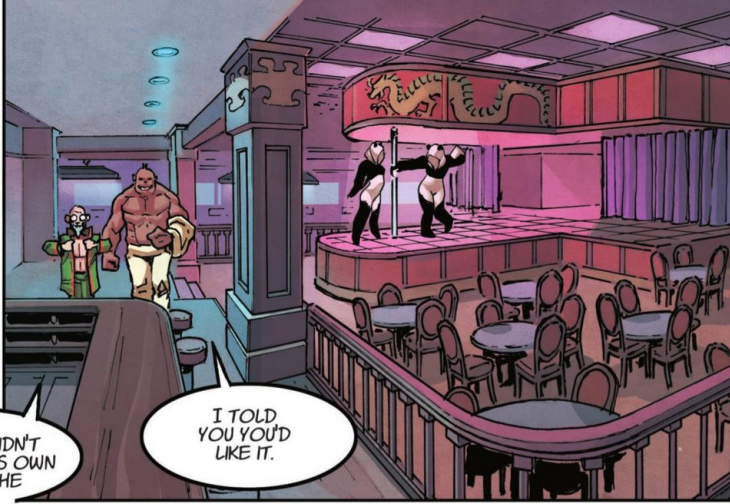
WHAT?! WHAT HAPPENED?

I... I THINK YOU KILLED HER...

I... I'M ON MY WAY.



AND TOMASSINI DIDN'T KNOW THAT HIS OWN SON WAS THE TIGER?



I TOLD YOU YOU'D LIKE IT.

SO YOU KILLED THE FATHER SO THE SON WOULD RETURN?



GOOD! VERY GOOD!

AND BY GETTING RID OF TOMASSINI, YOU NOW HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL OF THE BLACK MARKET.



HA HA! THAT'S GOOD, TOO!

SO YOU CAN SEE THAT I'VE MADE THE FIRST STEP. IT'S NOW YOUR TURN TO SHOW THAT WE ARE TRUE ALLIES.



YES, I THINK I HAVE WHAT YOU NEED.



COME.

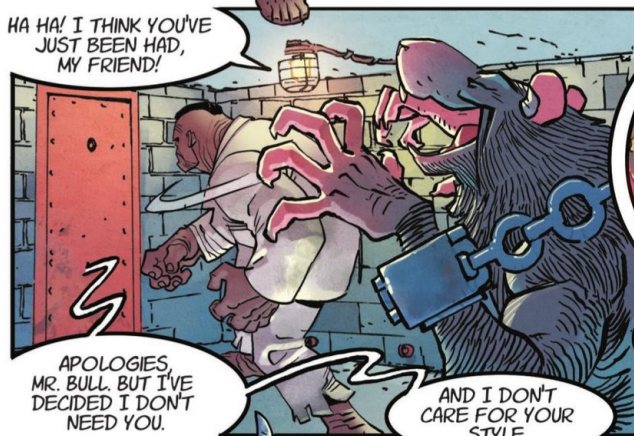


HERE, SEE FOR YOURSELF.



WHAT IS THIS?!







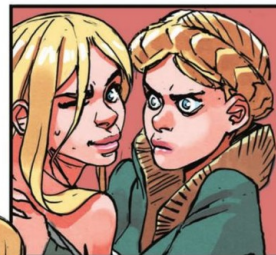
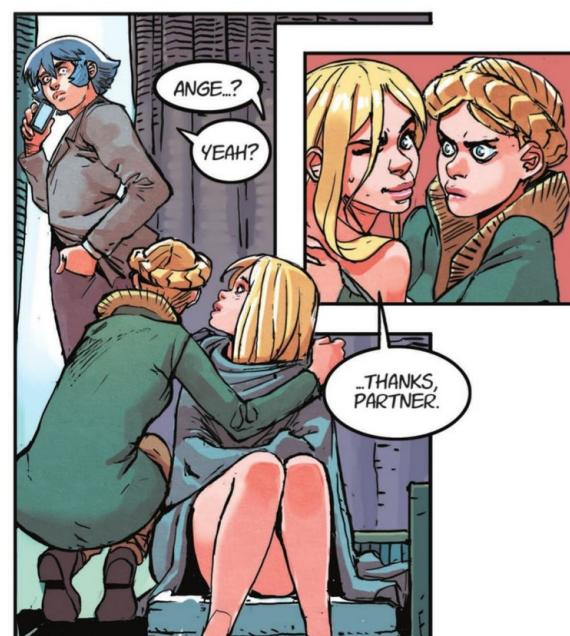
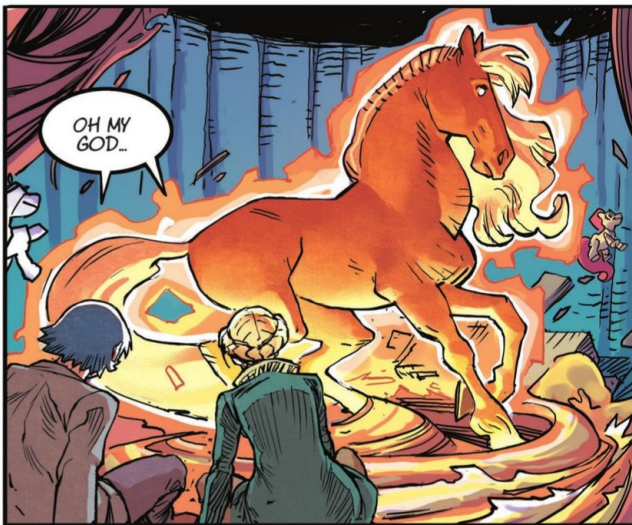
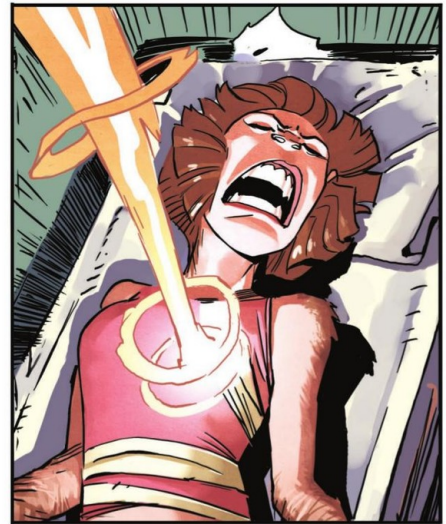


I NEVER THOUGHT
FOR THIRTY SECONDS YOU
WERE ALSO A DIZLI...



DON'T WORRY. YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION
WAS RIGHT. I'M NOT A THREAT YOU NEED
TO WORRY ABOUT.







YOU HAVE TO DO IT.



I... I DON'T WANT TO!



HEY, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GOT A CHOICE!



I DON'T WANT THE PAIN...



IF YOU DON'T DO IT, WE'LL ALL DIE!



M-MAYBE NOT... SOMEONE MIGHT --



STOP IT! NOBODY'S COMING! IT'S UP TO US TO DO SOMETHING!



I'M-I'M NOT BRAVE ENOUGH... THE RAT'S ALWAYS BEEN A COWARD...



DON'T SAY THAT. YOU'RE AN EMBARRASSMENT.



I DON'T CARE! LEAVE ME ALONE!



YOU DESERVE TO BE LEFT HERE TO ROT. BUT I'M GONNA HELP YOU ANYWAYS.



H... HOW?



IF YOU'RE NOT GONNA DO IT, I WILL!



NOOOOOO!



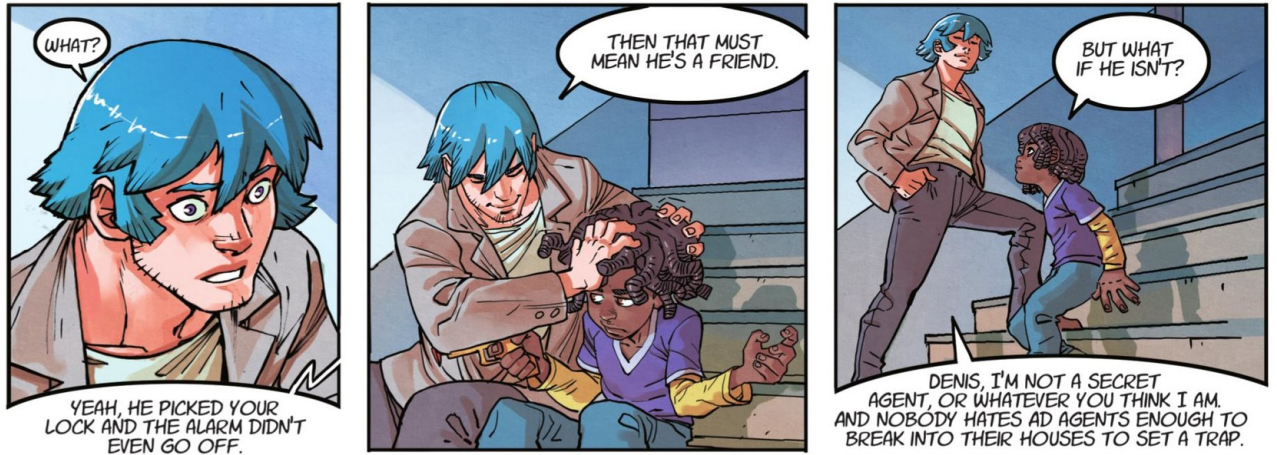


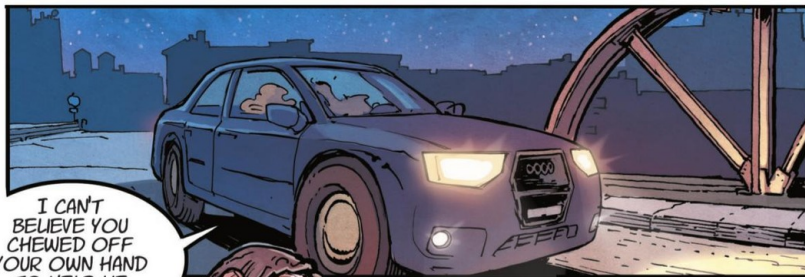
NOT GONNA HAPPEN. I'LL NEVER GO BACK TO THE STATES. YOU KNOW EVERYTHING, YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT.



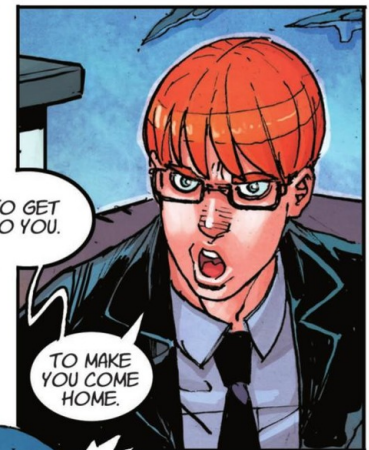
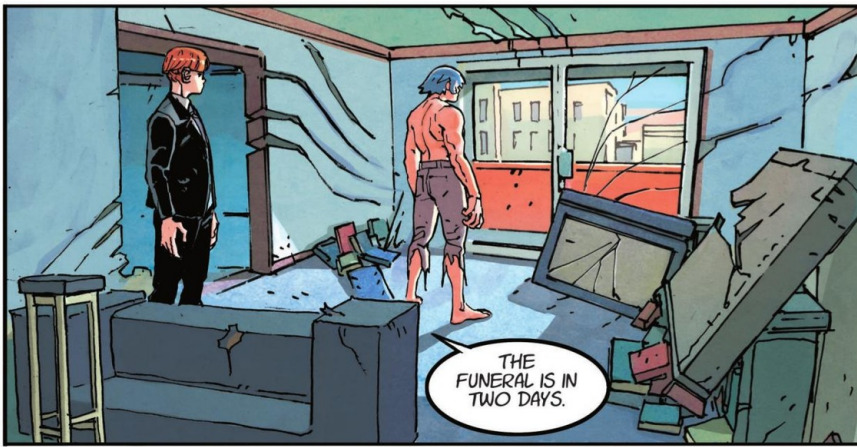
YOU COULD TRY... BUT I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND IT. NOBODY WANTS TO SEE ME ANGRY.













WAIT!
YOU... YOU
SAID WE WERE
PARTNERS!



I DIDN'T SAY
PARTNERS. I SAID ALLIES.
I MEANT THAT I WOULD
USE YOU TO ACHIEVE
MY GOALS.



TH-THAT'S NOT
WHAT ALLIES
MEANS!

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU AND
THE ONLY THING THAT BOTHERS
YOU IS MY GRAMMAR?

YOU CAN'T
KILL ME! THE RAT
DIZHI IS A REALLY
BAD FIT FOR
YOU!

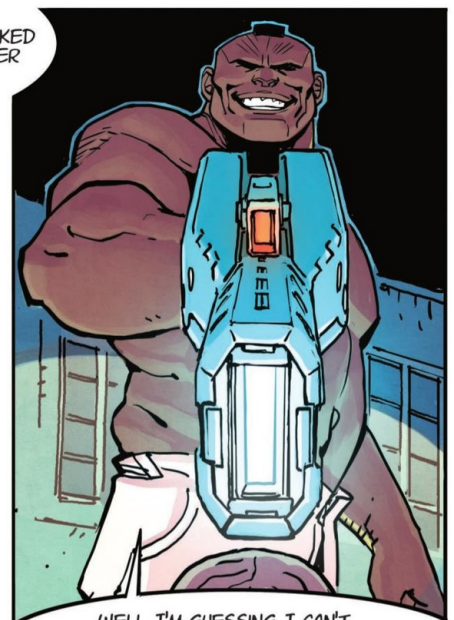
WHO SAID
I WANTED IT
FOR MYSELF?



WHAT? BUT... THE RAT WILL
CONTINUE TO EXIST INSIDE
MY PARTNER...



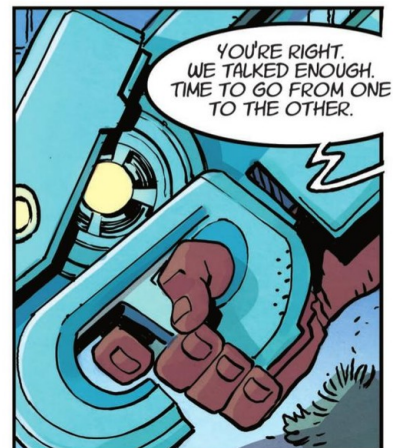
NOT WITH THIS
LITTLE BEAUTY. SEE, IT'S
LIKE A VACUUM -- ONCE I'VE SUCKED
UP YOUR TOTEM, YOUR PARTNER
WON'T HAVE ANY POWER...



WELL, I'M GUESSING. I CAN'T
PROMISE HE'LL BE OKAY. I HAVEN'T SEEN
WHAT THIS THING DOES TO THE OTHER HOST.



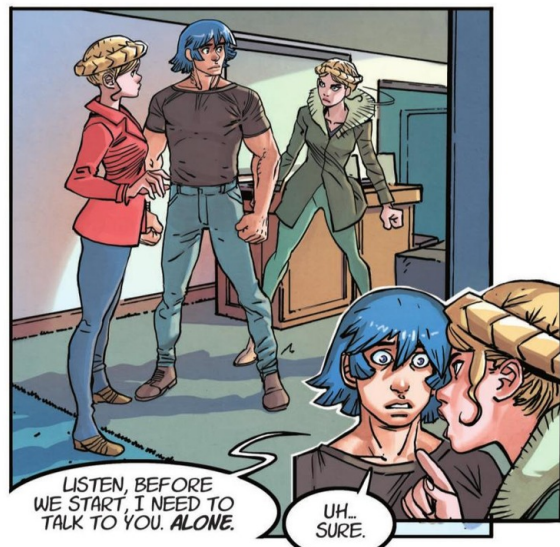
WHAT ABOUT
YOUR RANT ABOUT
FRIENDSHIP? LIFE
UNTIL DEATH?

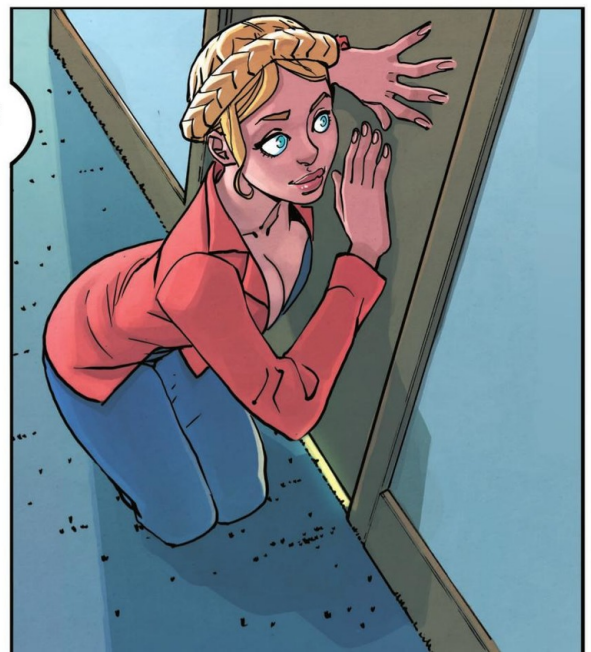


YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE TALKED ENOUGH.
TIME TO GO FROM ONE
TO THE OTHER.











FIRST, I SUGGEST EVERYONE TURN INTO THEIR TOTEM SO WE ALL KNOW WHO IS WHO.



OKAY, I BROUGHT YOU ALL TOGETHER BECAUSE YOU'RE ALL LINKED TO ME. AND GIVEN WHAT IS ABOUT TO HAPPEN, THAT MIGHT GET VERY DANGEROUS.



SO I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE THAT YOU EACH ASSUME THE FULL POWER OF THE TOTEM, ENTIRELY FOR YOURSELVES. I'LL ONLY KEEP THE TIGER, SINCE THAT ONE IS PERMANENT.

IF I MAY INTERJECT -- THAT'S STUPID. PLUS, YOU'RE GOING TO FORCE US ALL TO GET THE SAME URGES YOU GOT IN CHINA.

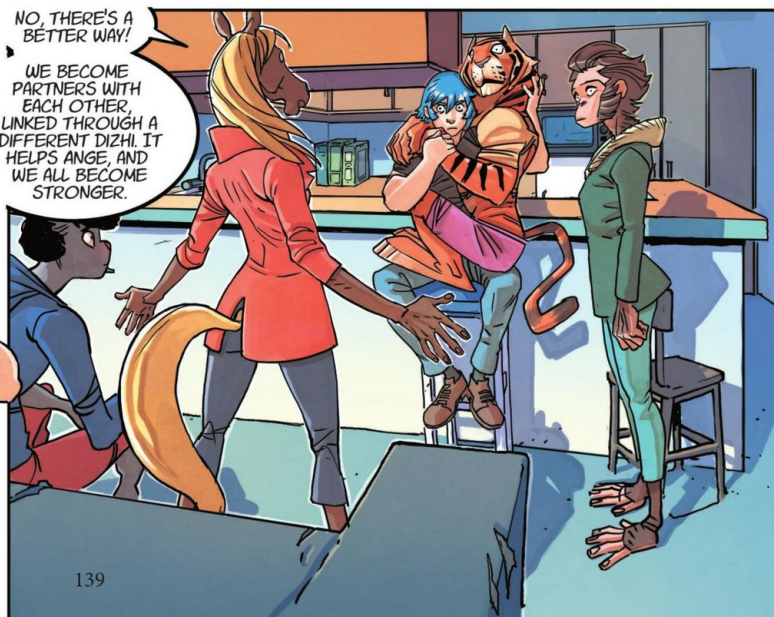
IT'S A BAD IDEA NOT TO SHARE A DIZHI, YOU SAID SO YOURSELF.

THE URGES FROM JUST ONE TOTEM SHOULDN'T BE ANY KIND OF PROBLEM. BESIDES --

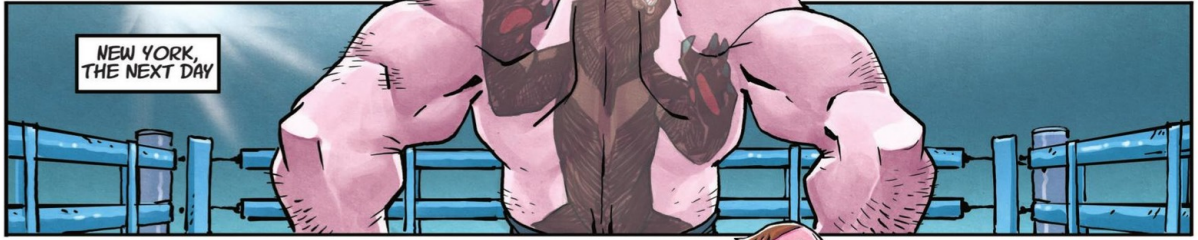


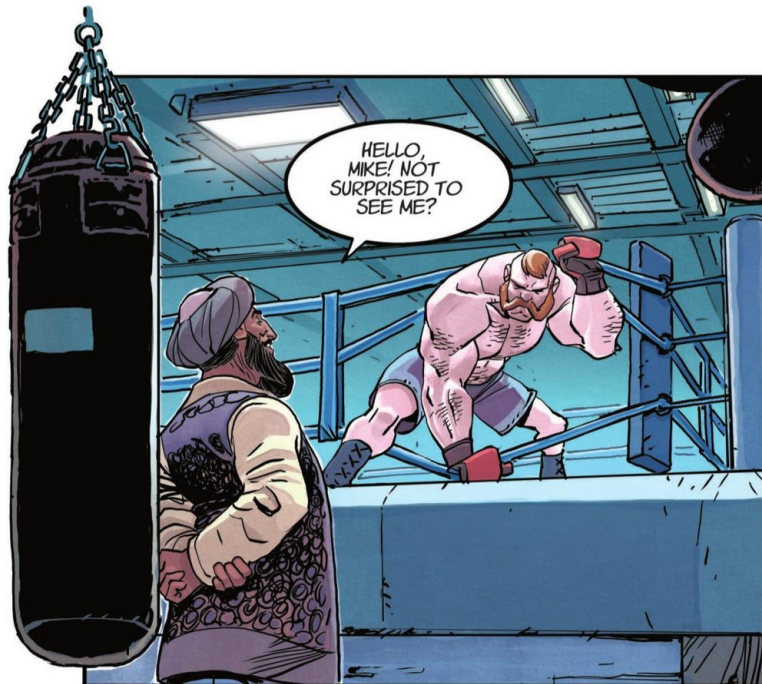
NO, THERE'S A BETTER WAY!

WE BECOME PARTNERS WITH EACH OTHER, LINKED THROUGH A DIFFERENT DIZHI. IT HELPS ANGE, AND WE ALL BECOME STRONGER.



NEW YORK,
THE NEXT DAY







PLEASE FORGIVE SAMIR.
HE HAS BEEN DELAYED.



BUT FRANKLY,
THAT MAY BE GOOD
NEWS. WE CAN HAVE
A CONSTRUCTIVE
CONVERSATION.



BECAUSE WE
WILL NOT LEAVE THIS
TABLE UNTIL WE HAVE
COME TO A UNANIMOUS
AGREEMENT.

IT MAY TAKE
SOME TIME, BUT
OUR VERY SURVIVAL
IS AT STAKE.



WE'VE REMAINED HIDDEN
FOR A VERY LONG TIME,
HOPING THAT WOULD
ENSURE PEACE.



BUT IT SEEMS THE
OTHER TWELVE DIZHI
HAVE LEARNED OF
OUR EXISTENCE.



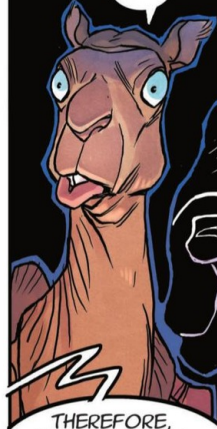
IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF
TIME NOW.



I BELIEVE, AS I
ALWAYS HAVE, THAT THE
BEST DEFENSE IS A
GOOD OFFENSE.



?!



THEREFORE,
I PROPOSE WE
INVOLVE OURSELVES
IN THEIR CONFLICT.



WHAT?
THAT GOES AGAINST
EVERYTHING WE'VE
DONE!

TIMES HAVE CHANGED. IF WE STAY UNITED,
AND TAKE THEM BY SURPRISE, WE MIGHT
HAVE A CHANCE AT VICTORY.



THIS
IS INSANE!



BEFORE WE GO INTO
THE DETAILS, LET US
FIRST SEE WHERE
WE STAND.



A VOTE..

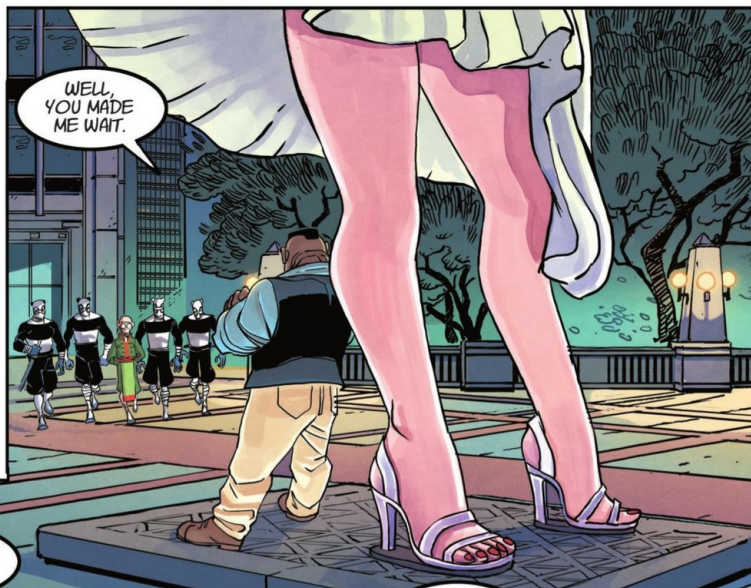


THOSE
IN FAVOR
OF THE
WAR?





MEANWHILE,
IN CHICAGO



WELL,
YOU MADE
ME WAIT.

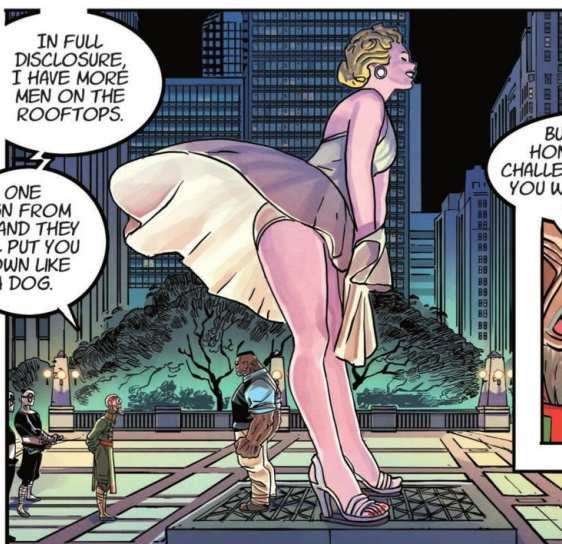
I FOUND YOUR
CHALLENGE TO A DUEL
QUITE... DISTRACTING.

HOW COULD
I REFUSE?



YOU
BROUGHT
BACK-UP
DANCERS.

AS ODD AS IT MAY SEEM,
WE HAVEN'T ESTABLISHED
MUCH TRUST BETWEEN
US. I THOUGHT TO
PLAY IT SAFE.



IN FULL
DISCLOSURE,
I HAVE MORE
MEN ON THE
ROOFTOPS.

ONE
SIGN FROM
ME AND THEY
WILL PUT YOU
DOWN LIKE
A DOG.

BUT I WILL
HONOR YOUR
CHALLENGE AND KILL
YOU WITH MY OWN
HANDS.



WHERE
SHALL WE
DO THIS?



WHY
NOT RIGHT
HERE?



AND IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHY YOUR MEN DIDN'T PROTECT YOU, IT'S BECAUSE MINE WERE FASTER!



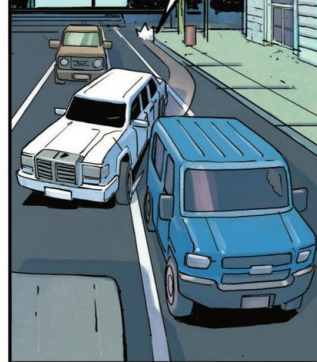
YOU'LL BE
HAPPY, SAMIR.
EVERYTHING WENT
JUST AS YOU
PREDICTED.

BUT I
DIDN'T THINK
IT WOULD HAPPEN
THIS QUICKLY.



ONCE AROUND THE TABLE,
AND THE VOTE WAS
SETTLED.

THE
INSECT DID
HIS PART?



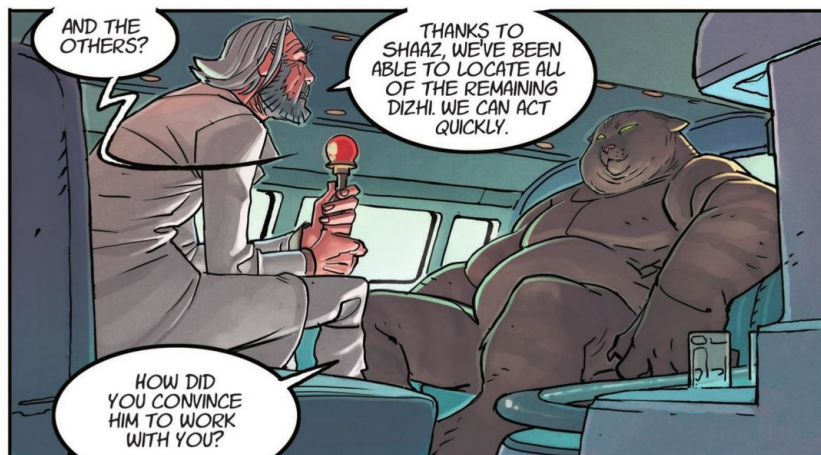
YES. HE KNEW HOW
TO GET EVERYONE FIRED UP...
IT HELPS THAT THE ZODIAC TWELVE
WERE SO ARROGANT IN THE
PAST...



AND THE
OTHERS?

THANKS TO
SHAAZ, WE'VE BEEN
ABLE TO LOCATE ALL
OF THE REMAINING
DIZHI. WE CAN ACT
QUICKLY.

HOW DID
YOU CONVINCE
HIM TO WORK
WITH YOU?

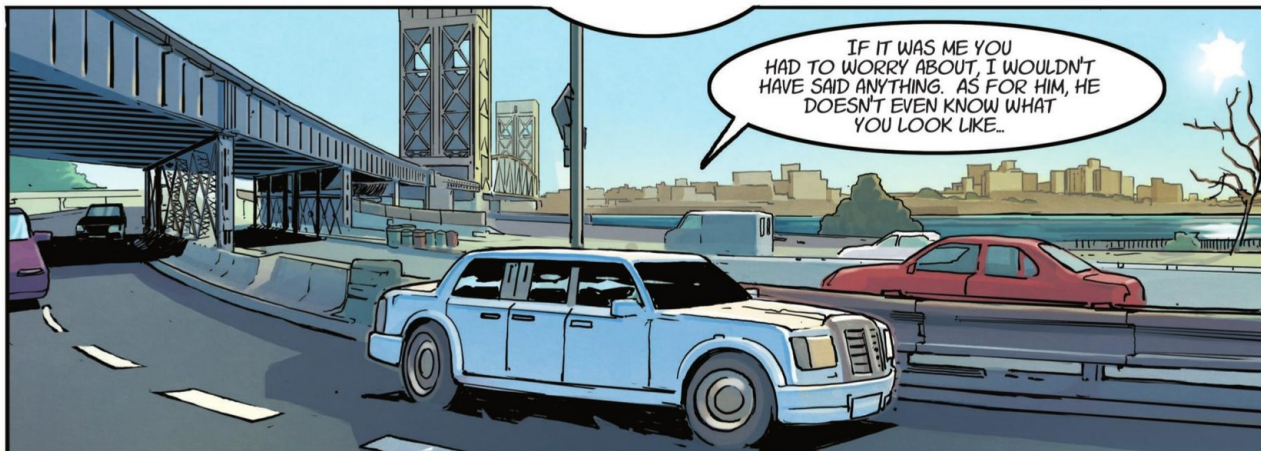


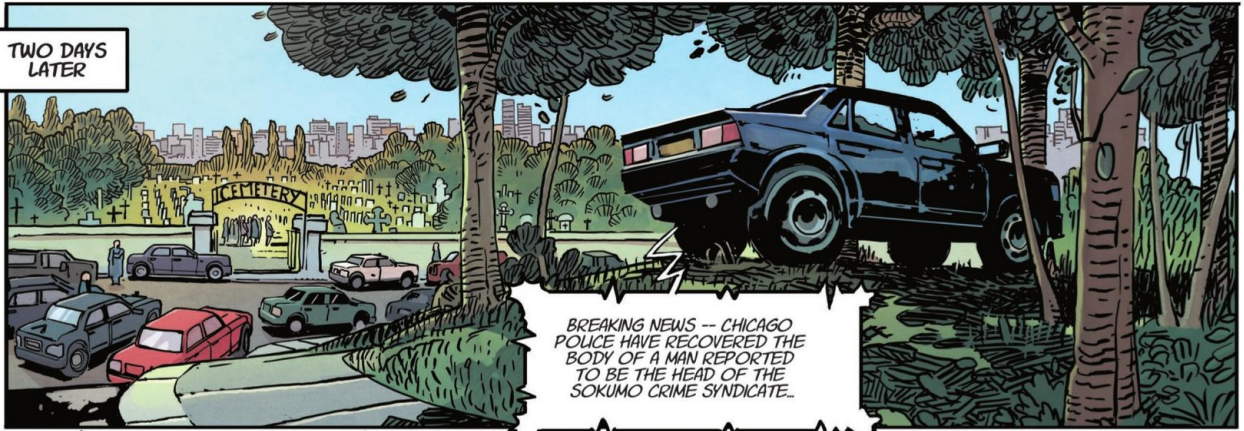
I TOLD HIM
HE'D GET THE CAT
TOTEM BACK FROM
YOU.

HA!
SHOULD I BE
WORRIED? IF SO,
ABOUT YOU OR
HIM?



IF IT WAS ME YOU
HAD TO WORRY ABOUT, I WOULDN'T
HAVE SAID ANYTHING. AS FOR HIM, HE
DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT
YOU LOOK LIKE...

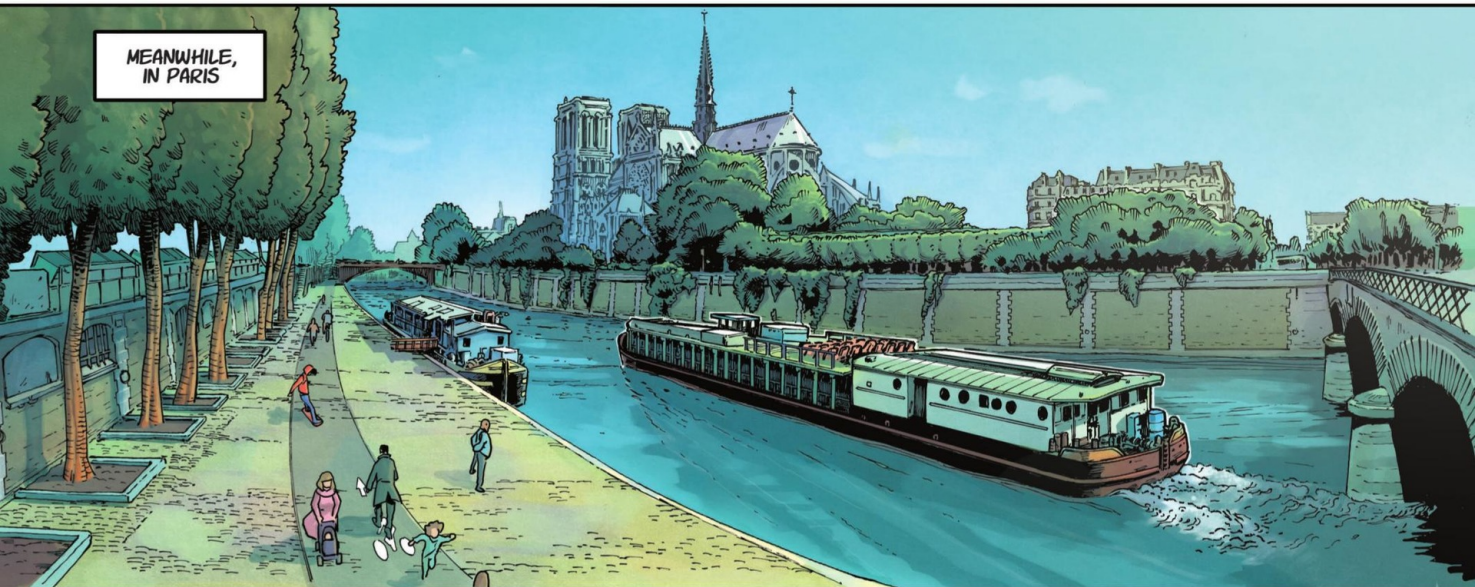
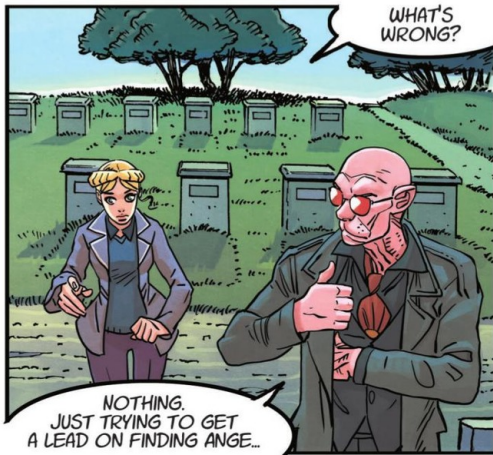












END OF THE SECOND CYCLE